Virginia Campo Freitag

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The Marker Lamp

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National Model Railroad Association

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The editorial policy of The Marker Lamp, the official publication of The Lone Star Region, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility. The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of The Lone Star Region of The National Model Railroad Association. Articles appearing in The Marker Lamp are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of The Lone Star Region or The National Model Railroad Association.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided. Correspondence relating to Pike Ads and Dealer Ads should be addressed to Speed Muller lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

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Virginia and Gil Freitag

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President's Message

by Donna Orr
donnalorrtx@gmail.com

Our LSR Board team have worked in each area of their expertise to further the model train hobby. One item that we all discussed and worked on is methods of retaining members: each month when the monthly reports come to us, the Divisions' try to contact the members that are on the 30-day list and send their results to our regional membership chairman. He in turn contacts each person on the 60-day list. We have been able to keep several members and also find out their reason for not rejoining the NMRA.

The top two reasons are, retirement, living on a fixed income and the NMRA dues are no longer a luxury that they can afford. And the second is quitting the hobby, either because of downsizing their home or moving to a retirement/ assisted living facility. Do we need a retiree NMRA dues category? Give me feed back and let me know what you think.

With regard to membership, the Plano Train Show is a great place to recruit members. This January 15-16, 2022, we gained 10 new members in Division 3 and 8 new members in Division1.

With regard to smaller divisions hosting regional conventions. Some of our divisions are not as large as others and do not have the resources to host a regional convention. Through our recent combined convention with MCoR, that convention paved the way for a process for us to assist these Divisions. With MCor, other than one in person meeting, everything was done via email, conference calls and zoom meetings. As of our Regional Board meeting in January, we have established a core group that is setting up the process we will be able to use to expand our regional conventions.

Don't forget to attend our regional convention for 2022 in Temple in May, then the National here in DFW in 2023, then regional in San Angelo, Tx for 2024, and possibly a Louisiana regional in 2025. Cross your fingers, Louisiana here we come.

There was a survey of the state of model railroading done by Tim Blackwell of the Cowcatcher Magazine. The results are today verses 2021. Interesting data that came back: 60 percent that responded prefer DCC operations. Most self-identify as intermediate or advance modelers. The majority favor HO, then 28% for N, 26% O, 14% narrow gauge, 13% G scale and 4% Z. Detail on locomotives and rolling stock as excellent, but many feel that it's only somewhat important to have an extremely detailed layout.

If you are interested in reading the entire article it was in the January/February 2022 Cowcatcher Magazine.

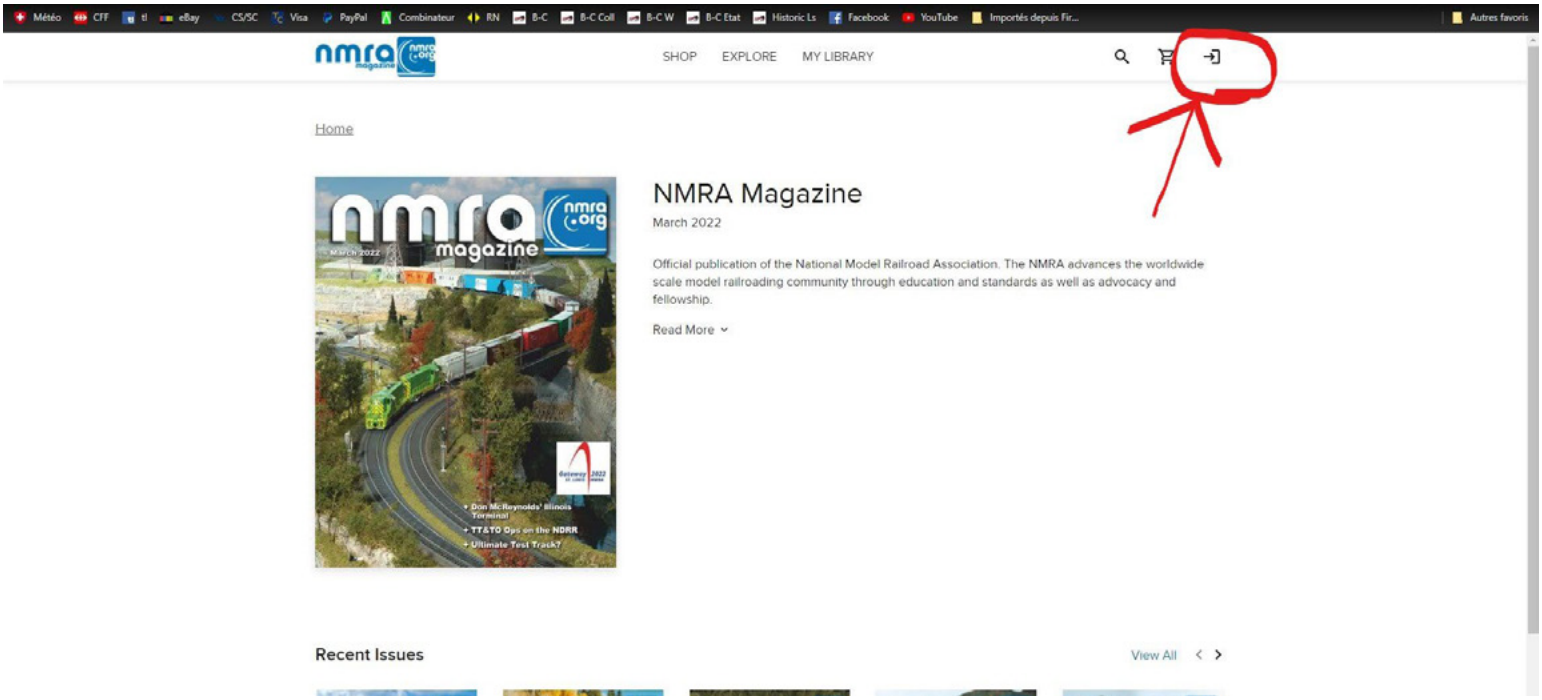
I have made a point to talk with many that are into model railroading. There are many groups that meet on social media and discuss their particular interests in this great hobby. However, many do not belong to the NMRA. Some have never heard of the NMRA.

This hobby is not dying. We (LSR-NMRA) are not where we want to be and there lies the issue. What is our hook? Any member with good ideas, please send them to your division director or myself.

Until next time!

Digital awakenings

by Riley Triggs
rileytriggs@gmail.com
ponyrr.blogspot.com
modelrailroaddesign.blogspot.com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NMRA Magazine
March 2022
Official publication of the National Model Railroad Association. The NMRA advances the worldwide scale model railroading community through education and standards as well as advocacy and fellowship.
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Fig 1.Start your registration at the sign in icon at the top right of the browser window.

The NMRA has entered the digital age of publishing with the addition of the web and mobile device apps for reading the NMRA Magazine on April 1st (no joke). The process started last July 3rd at an NMRA Board of Directors meeting when Gordy Robinson was installed as the President of the organization.

We were immediately given the task of researching, testing, and selecting a digital platform and going live in 9 months, which we accomplished with almost a whole day to spare! The "we" includes the NMRA Digital Publications Working Group consisting of President Gordy Robinson, VP Rick Coble, Chief Financial Officer Frank Koch, your own Speed Muller as IT Manager, Marketing Consultant Christina Zambri (who will be speaking at our LSR convention), NMRA Chief Administration Officer Jenny Hendricks, and me as Publications Department Head.

In the process, we looked at a dozen plus different ways of delivering the NMRA Magazine online including hosting a PDF viewer on our own server. We tested this with members in the fall of 2021 and surveyed members on their user experience. It was found overwhelmingly to be deficient in quality and features, so we turned to professional services for a solution.

We looked at magazine platforms and specifically those who catered to the hobby press. Great Magazines, Pocketmags, Zinio, and white label products in use by *Model Railroader*, *Model Railroad Craftsman*, *Model Rail*, and others where tested.

Our recommendation to the Board was to go with a white label - this means it is not on a public newsstand app or web page, but rather a standalone platform - and to use Zinio who serves 6000+ magazines worldwide including *Model Railroader* and Kalmbach in general, *TIME*, *National Geographic*, and *People*. The Board officially agreed in December, and we started contract negotiations with Zinio and a graphic designer.

Then there were just three months to figure out how our database would interface with Zinio, to design the templates for web and mobile apps, to develop unique solutions for our organization within the platform, and to create launch graphics and marketing messages across social media and our publications outlets. But we made it.

The only bumpy part of the roll out has been the initial login procedure. Unfortunately, you cannot use your existing login for the nmra.org website. You must register for the

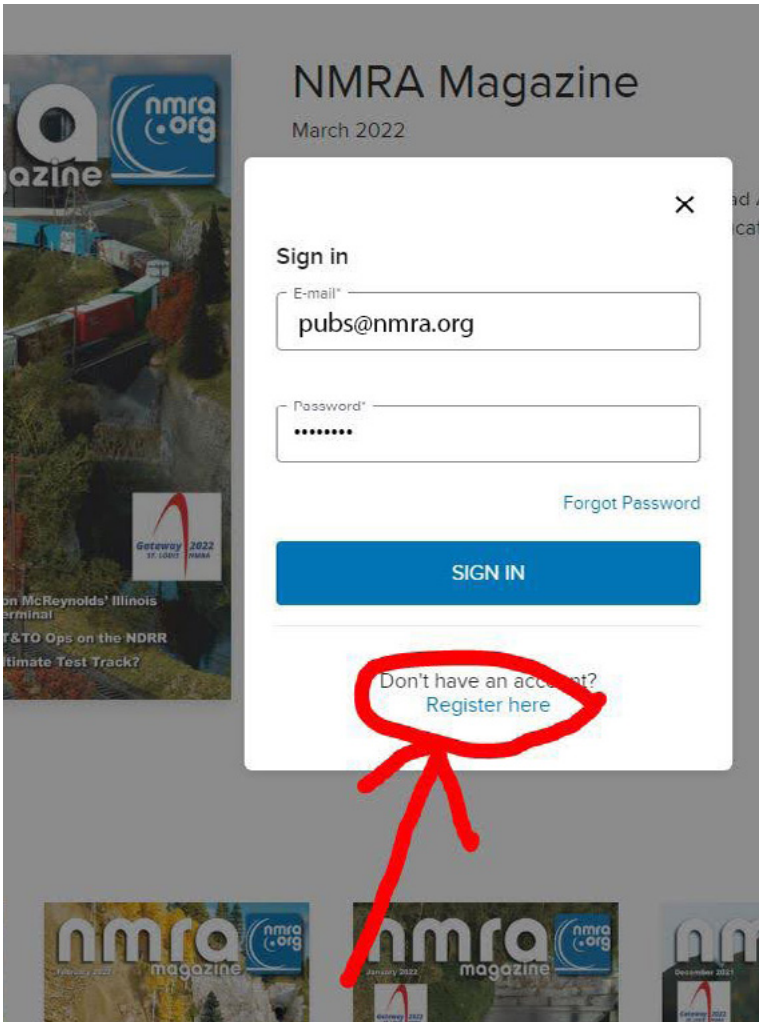


Fig 2. At the pop-up, click Register here link.

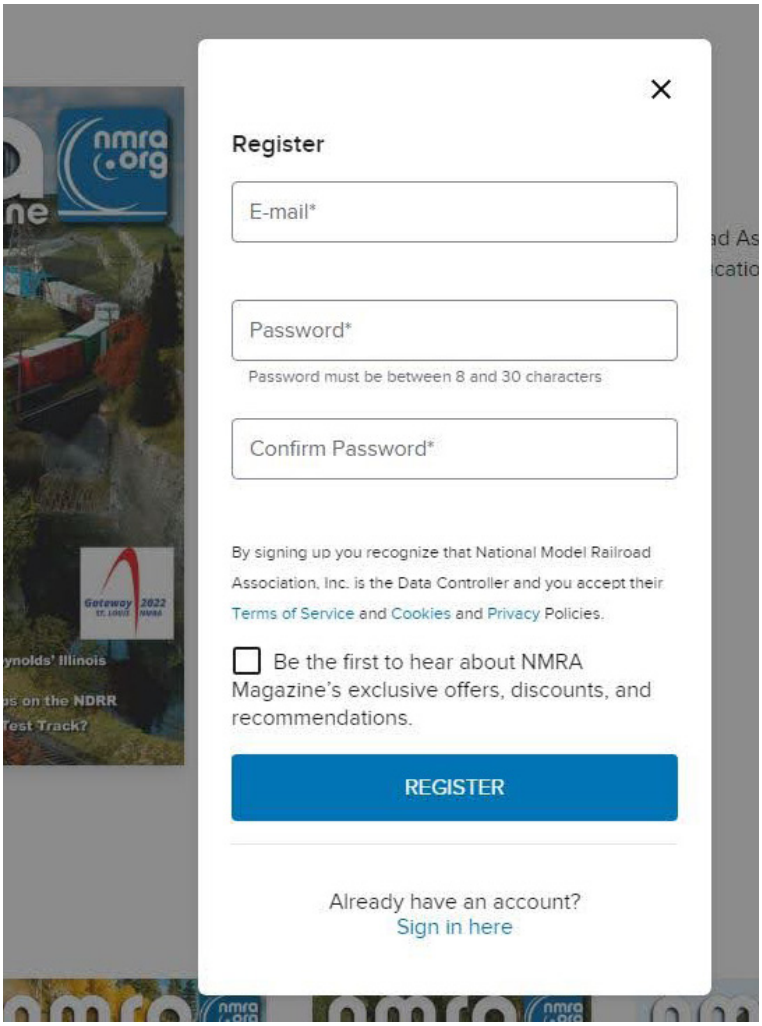

Register
E-mail*
Password*
Password must be between 8 and 30 characters
Confirm Password*
By signing up you recognize that National Model Railroad Association, Inc. is the Data Controller and you accept their Terms of Service and Cookies and Privacy Policies.
Be the first to hear about NMRA Magazine's exclusive offers, discounts, and recommendations.
REGISTER
Already have an account?
Sign in here

Fig 3. Then use your email you use for the NMRA.org website login and choose a password of your choice.

digital magazine separately. We are working towards a single sign on solution for all NMRA things in the future, but we did not want to wait on that to launch our digital offering. Let's look quickly at the steps to register so that you can logon to the digital magazine at nmra.zinioapps.com.

To start on a computer (fig 1), use Chrome or Edge browser to get to the sign in page by clicking the log in icon in the top right. Then at the pop-up, click Register here (fig 2) to get to the sign up (fig 3). You MUST use your nmra.org website email and create a password of your choice. Now you can log in on your computer and mobile devices with the same email and password.

For mobile devices it looks similar (fig 4), but you start at the profile icon at the bottom right of the screen, then follow the same pop-ups to either register the first time or sign in later.

The advantages of the professional-class Zinio platform are many including the maturity of the platform, its familiarity with members, the low cost, the availability of web and mobile device apps, and the ability to read offline.

There are also some features that are beyond regular plain PDFs like the ability to change reading views from traditional PDF to an easier-to-read TEXT mode that enlarges text and images in a scrollable presentation for easy reading on computer or mobile device.

You can also print 2 page spreads at a time, bookmark articles, download for offline viewing, use iPhone, iPad, Android phones and tablets, and use any browser (but *only* Chrome and Edge support offline reading). For more info, FAQs, and how-to videos, go to https://www.nmra.org/nmra-digital-magazine.

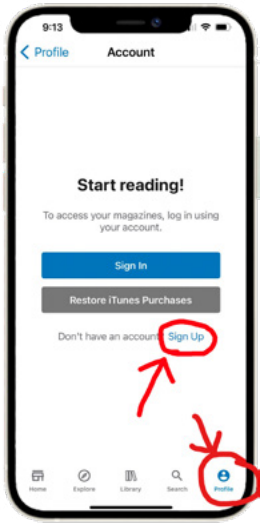


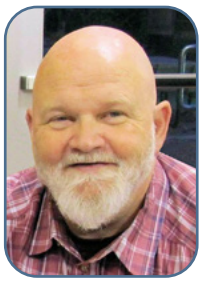
Fig 4 Mobile Sign Up

I tell you all of this so that you are aware of the efforts of the national organization to bring added value and benefits to members. We are a volunteer organization with a small national staff who are all committed to enhancing our love and pursuit of railroad modeling for our 14,000+ members worldwide. I think this digital awakening is an indication of great things that the organization will accomplish in the near future and shows the potential of what a little time and effort by a dedicated group of individuals can do.

But really all of this is just a setup for an excuse why the *Marker Lamp* has been late this past year. Sorry!

Riley

Up the Tracks Events Calendar



By Bill Dryden
NMRA & LSR Life Member

DISCLAIMER in light of COVID-19

I have visited each of the web sites provided, however, you should (re)verify any event you are interested in attending before traveling to it.

Here are upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA Scale Rails and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via e-mail at bdr149@airmail.net.

2022 Lone Star Region NMRA
May 5-7, 2022

Mayborn Convention Center
Temple, Texas

Come all!!
PARTICIPATE!!!

RECURRING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

LSR Division 3 - Trinity River Division – Allen

The Trinity River Division meets on the Third Saturday of every month at the Christ Servant Lutheran Church, Allen Texas. Occasionally things change due to scheduling conflicts so pay close attention to the email meeting notices that go out a week before the meeting. If you would like to be added to the email list contact Donna Orr at donnalorrtx@gmail.com.

LSR Division 4 – Cen-Tex Division – Austin

The Cen-Tex Division meets bi-monthly at the Austin Northwest Recreational Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, TX. Meetings are held at 10:00 am on the Second Saturday of the odd months and include clinics, show-and-tell, DCC minute, social activities and a layout open house. For more information about upcoming meetings, see http://centexnmra.org or contact director@centexnmra.org to be added to the mail list.

LSR Division 8 - Texas Gulf Division – Houston

The Texas Gulf Division presents hands-on-clinics every second Saturday of each month at the Bayland Center, 6400 Bissonnet, Houston. The clinic times are 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. All are welcome. To be added to the Division 8 mailing list contact Jim Lemmond at jimlem@comcast.net. The Division 8 web site is http://texasgulfdivision.org/

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers - San Antonio

The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meets the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777; or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Austin Model Railway Society - Austin

The Austin Model Railway Society is a HO scale modular group that is open to new members and meets once a month. For more information please email Riley Triggs at president@austinrailway.org or visit the web site www.austinrailway.org.

Houston Area Live Steamers

HALS has over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride on most any Saturday of the year. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Rick White at rick.white.jr@gmail.com for more information.

New Braunfels Railroad Museum

Kids Fun Day is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the New Braunfels Railroad Museum, 302 South San Antonio Street (in the 1907 Restored Railroad Depot), New Braunfels, TX. Museum phone (830) 627-2447. Kids of all ages will have the opportunity to run model trains and become a Jr. Engineer. Also among the displays at the Kids Fun Day will be a large US Army Model Garden (G) Scale and Lego Trains. Visit our Steam Engine, Caboose, Dining Car (available for Birthday Parties) and Box Car. There will be other fun, train related activities, additional model trains, train artifacts, our 1907 depot are on display. The Railroad Museum opens at 10:00 am on Saturdays. For field trip scheduling and more information, call Howard Young (210) 542-6121, or visit us at www.nbrrm.org.

North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs – Irving

The North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs (NTC) meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visit the website www.dfwtrainshows.com for more information about the NTC, its meeting site, member clubs or sponsored events.

San Antonio Model Railroad Association - San Antonio

The San Antonio Model Railroad Association, SAMRA, is open to new members and meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm in the Bob Clarke Rail Heritage Museum, 7702 Narrow Pass, Live Oak, TX. Please visit our website www.samratx.org for information about our activities and their dates and times. Also, like us on Facebook.

South Texas Railroad Socials – San Antonio

The "Socials" are a casual gathering of train folks in South Texas, both modelers and prototype railfans. We gather quarterly for a couple hours of Clinics and Presentations, Show-n-Tell, regional news, Q&A and funny video clips. Not a meeting, not a club, just buy lunch at the restaurant and use their party room. Started in 2018, went virtual via Zoom in 2020, going hybrid in 2021 (back to in-person and virtual). Plus, we have Shop Talk, a quarterly 'project guys' round table gathering, in between the Socials. Read more, see photos from past Socials and find our next date, at www.SouthTexasRR.com.

Texas Northern Model Railroad Club – Dallas (North)

The Texas Northern Model Railroad Club business meeting is the 1st Thursday of the month and for regular meetings and on Thursday evenings and most Saturdays. If you like to operate, come by on Tuesday nights to join our weekly operation session. Located in North Dallas at 11999 Plano Rd., Suite 154, Dallas, TX 7 5243. For more information: www.texasnorthern.org.

Texas Western Model Railroad Club – Forest Hills

The Texas Western Model Railroad Club meets for its business meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. The Club is located at 6808 Forest Hills Drive, Forest Hills, TX. For more information: (682) 587-2092 or www.twmrc.org or email cdo@twmrc.org.

EVENTS AND SHOWS

February

12th The Greater Houston Train Show. Sat. 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Adults and Youth $5, Under 12 FREE, Max. $10 per family. Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX: http://sanjacmodeltrains.org/

26th – 27th 46th Annual Jamboree & Train Show (Sponsored by San Antonio Model Railroad Association). Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children (Limit 3) under 16 free when accompanied by a paying adult, Wounded Warriors, Active Military and their family free. Garden Ridge Community Center, 9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX. More information: jamboree@samratx.org or http://www.samratx.org/shows.html.

April

9th – 10th New Braunfels Model Train Annual Spring Train Show Jamboree. (Sponsored by New Braunfels Railroad Museum). Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $10 (14 & older), Child $2 (5-13 years old). New Braunfels Civic Center, 375 South Castell Avenue, New Braunfels, TX. More information: jedmondson@satx.rr.com or http://newbraunfelsrailroadmuseum.org/nbrr/train-shows/.

May

14th – 15th Historic Jefferson Train Show. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $7, Kids under 6 Free. 305 W. Austin Street, Jefferson, TX. More information: Norman Bell (903) 240-6039, or (866) 398-2038 or http://historicjeffersontrainshow.com/.

21st Lone Star Division Train Show and Swap Meet. (Sponsored by Train Collectors Association). Sat. 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Garden Ridge Community Center, 9500 Municipal Parkway, Garden Ridge, TX. More information: Pat Halpin at (210) 661-4238.

August

27th – 28th Austin Area Train Show 2022. Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Adults $8, Children 12 and under FREE with adult. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road, Austin, TX. More information: info@austintrainshow.org or https://austintrainshow.org/ or follow AMRS on Facebook!

Excursion Train Trips

Austin Steam Train; Cedar Park, TX; (512) 477-8468; www.austinsteamtrain.org

Grapevine Vintage Railroad; Grapevine, TX; (817) 410-3185; www.gvrr.com

Old Hickory Railroad; Jackson, LA; (225) 634-7397; www.louisianasteamtrain.com

Texas State Railroad; Palestine & Rusk, TX; (888) 987-2461; www.texasstaterr.com

Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Whose track goes there?

If you tell me whose layout this big photo is from, I will give the first person to email me the correct answer at rrrduino@huntatrophy.com a campfire lighting Arduino next time we meet!

Help Save the Crescent Lines!

The Crescent City Model Railroad Club in Metairie, Louisiana needs your help to raise funds for a new roof to replace the current one that was damaged during Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021. A neighbor's roof came off his home and blew over our building causing multiple holes in our roof and causing water damage inside of our building. In addition to that, another neighbor's tree fell on the back corner of the building causing more damage and leaks. Please donate at the Go Fund Me page: https://gofund.me/a96d6a2b

Please Donate at Go Fund Me

https://gofund.me/a96d6a2b

CRESCENT LINES

www.ccmrc.com

Do you live in central Texas?

Whether you're new to model railroading,
want a large layout but don't have the room,
or just want to hang out with friends...

Come join us!

We're an HO scale modular club with regular meetings in the Austin area.
Members participate in many ways, from software to scenery to operations.

AUSTIN MODEL RAILWAY SOCIETY
EST AMRS 2017

Check out all our website at **austinrailway.org** for more information and how to join.
You can also reach us at **info@austinrailway.com** or **(512) 836-5275**.

2022 Lone Star Region Convention Temple, Tx May 5-7

We are looking for members who would like participate by presenting clinics. The clinic theme is

"Working towards the Achievement Program"

If you are interested in helping out, contact Bob Thiele, Cen-Tex director at rthiele52@hotmail.com

Convention

By Joe Leisng, LSR Convention Chair
Joe@Leising.com

2022 LSR Regional Convention
Where Modeling meets Prototype
Register today for the LSR2022 Convention in Temple, Texas
May 5th through May7th 2022
At the Mayborn Convention Center
There's lots to do at LSR2022!
Lots of clinics
Operational and display layouts at the center
Large lounge area for shooting the breeze and telling lies
Refreshments for convention goers, Snack bar during convention
Online train watching in lounge area
Silent auction

Get ready for one of the most wonderful times of the year. It's the Annual Lone Star Regional Convention.
The 2022 LSR Regional Convention is just about ready to start, taking place on May 5 – 7, 2022. The conventions Temple, TX location provides for quick and easy access from just about everywhere within our region, right off of Interstate 35 at Exit #303.

Once you arrive at the convention, the Cen-Tex Division 4 Convention Crew has made arrangements to make things fun, comfortable and convenient. Imagine not having to go anywhere to railfan, visit layouts, or participate in an Operating Session. At the 2022 LSR Convention you can walk from a Clinic Room to an Operating Session, view one of multiple layouts, or railfan from a comfortable chair in a climate-controlled environment.

And of course, there are the clinics. A wide variety of topics will be covered by clinicians from throughout the LSR Region and are scheduled within time frames to provide maximum enjoyment for convention attendees. Special attention will be directed towards the Achievement Program and to help convention attendees to earn their next AP Certificate. Remember to bring your entries for the Contest Room, with categories in Arts & Crafts, Models and Photography.

Contest Rules, Entry Form and NMRA Judging Guide are all available in the Activities section of the convention website, LSR2022.org.

Operating Sessions will take place at the Mayborn Convention Center, the convention site, as well as at the Central Texas Area Model Railroaders (Centra Mod) location, a short two and a half miles from the convention site.

CentraMod features layouts in both N and HO scales. For information on signing-up for the Operating Sessions visit LSR2022.org

With any free time, experience Temple's many prototype railroad activities at the historic Temple Passenger Station, opened in 1911, where trains move in three different directions, the historic Katy Passenger Station, built in 1913, where Union Pacific runs on the old Katy Line from San Antonio to Dallas, the Santa Fe/UP Diamond, Santa Fe North Yard, or along the Santa Fe Line heading towards Cleburne. Trains, trains and more trains in a town known for its railroad activity and history all within minutes from the convention site. Locations and maps are available at LSR2022.org
Join in on the fun and fellowship with the Mix & Mingle events scheduled at the end of the convention activities on Thursday and Friday. A great opportunity to visit with old friends, and to make new ones. A special Guest Speaker will be featured at each days Mix & Mingle event.
And last but not least are the entertaining Non-Rail activities, both at the convention site and in and around Temple. Indeed the 2022 LSR Regional Convention has something for everyone.

Day Passes and Full-Registration are available for individuals that are not members of the NMRA. This provides a great opportunity to introduce your friends to the splendors of participation with the LSR and NMRA. Register now at LSR2022.org

For information on the convention, hotels and convention registration, visit LSR2022.org

Even a railroad modeler needs a brake once in a while, to let off some steam. So, get on the tracks to Temple, TX and join us on May 5 – 7 for another fantastic Lone Star Region Annual Convention.

Education

By John Lowrance, MMR, LSR Education Chair
new-london@sbcglobal.net

Interlocking towers control train traffic and do switching at key areas of the railroad. A track maintenance crew is working on repairs near a crossing track and tower.
A Speeder is a small hand-car used by the railroad to maintain tracks, signals, and other equipment. It can be hand or motor powered.

This is my first edition of Education News since being appointed as the Lone Star Region (LSR) Education chairman. Education may be the primary mission of the NMRA and LSR divisions. Education is instrumental to Preserve the hobby and recruit the next Generation of Model Railroaders. It is the way we pass the required modeling skills to them. Further, it has become a part of the NMRA, LSR and many local club's reason to exist under our Nations' taxation laws. As an Internal Revenue Service 501(c)(3) educational organization, we have a requirement to include any interested public in our meetings, conventions, and educational projects. My intent for this space is to share educational activities brought to my attention, that may help your club, division, or region conduct its educational programs. So let's get started.

Jack Segal (Photo 1) from the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA), organized an outreach effort with a local "hands on" children's museum. The "Do-seum" display about model railroading, included some modeled scenes built by SAMRA members and enclosed in Plexiglas cubes for wall mounting at the display. (Photo 2), and a short video loop to play at the exhibit. The display ran the 4th quarter of 2021 and exposed both the hobby and SAMRA to many parents and their children. Thru the course of the exhibit, some SAMRA members made personal appearances to explain model railroading in person visitors as they viewed the exhibit. When the museum releases attendance numbers for the quarter we might assume that all who toured the museum saw our exhibit and have a metric for how successful this outreach effort was.

Blain Holbrook of Salt Lake City Utah developed a successful effort for the Northern Utah Division (Rocky Mountain Region, NMRA) to bring entire families into the hobby. He calls it "Pizza Box Railroad." He and his division volunteers start by doing a very public live clinic on building a small N-scale railroad the size of a large pizza box. They do their intro clinics in the open area of a train show for maximum exposure to the general public. As families show interest, by explain their program and invite the entire family to sign up for 6 free weekly classes where their child will design, and build their own Pizza Box Railroad. The 6 classes have been held in Blain's garage, book stores, churches and other donated locations but lately local hobby shops have begun hosting the classes in their space. Using contributions, Blain's group is able to provide most of the materials except the power pack, rolling stock, and locomotive – and if sufficient contributions are available they may even add those items to the layout.

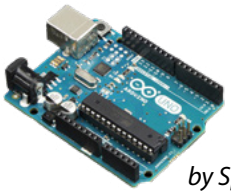
During the classes the children and their parents may opt to build an HO scale layout with the stipulation that all layouts are less than 12 square feet, and must be portable enough to be taken home and returned for remaining classes in the family vehicle. When signing up for the classes they collect a name, phone and email address. Classes are normally held monthly on Saturdays to encourage a long relationship with the families which normally include about 3 persons per railroad (a parent must be present).

Blain noted that about 1 in 5 of the families who have completed the "Pizza Box Railroad" have gone on to build a bigger home layout as a family project that involves more contact with the family and often referral to local clubs or division members for advice and help on the larger layout. Blain Holbrook invites anyone interested in setting up a "Pizza Box Railroad" program to contact him at 801 580-1459 or Bholbro1466@earthlink.net .

So what educational activities are you aware of? If you, your club or division are doing things to help inform and educate the public about the Hobby of Model Railroading, please send me a note or give me a call so we can pass your ideas on to the rest of our region. My contact information is: John Lowrance, 8611 Norwich Dr, San Antonio, TX 78217, (210) 822-2628, new-london@sbcglobal.net

LSR Convention Clinic Preview!

...RRRduino...



by Speed

... At the LSR 2022 Convention in Temple, TX ...

Welcome to another Make-and-Take clinic!

In this clinic we will show how to use more than one Arduino pin to do all kinds of different things. But, to keep it simple, we will encourage beginners to participate too and only play with LEDs. Think about things that include a beacon, a welder, a campfire, a traffic light and so forth. Once you grasp the idea of using `millis( )` and the ++ part in C++, you can add more advanced devices like servos and sensors.

What do you need to bring? **Everything!**

Including:

- A laptop computer (that has a USB port), with the latest version of the Arduino IDE installed: https://www.arduino.cc/en/software (version 1.8.19 as of 2022/04/17)
- An Arduino (Uno or Nano) that has some way of plugging into a little breadboard, where you can stick all the LEDs and resistors into.
    - Here is an affordable example with all the parts you would need: https://www.amazon.com/ELEGOO-Starter-Tutorial-Compatible-Official/dp/B01DGD2GAO/ref=sr_1_3
- Various colors of through hole LEDs, the kind that can stick into a breadboard (see kit shown above)
- A little breadboard (see kit shown above)
- The interconnect "Arduino" wires (see kit shown above)
- 1 kilo-ohm resistors (see kit shown above)
- And then the USB cable to connect the Arduino to your computer, as well as the power supply to keep the computer running.

We will publish the .pdf file on the TxNamib website the day before, and the thumb drive we will pass around in class, will also contain the .pdf file and the code we will work with.

So, to get you ready for the clinic, read through the next:

main.cpp contains the important and needed calls to the blue parts you might have seen opening the IDE (Integrated Development Environment):

```
int main( void ) {
	init( );		// set up all common things needed
	initVariant( );	// set up specific things needed
	setup( );		// only happens once
	for(;;) {
		loop( );	// happens again and again
		if( serialEventRun ) serialEventRun( ); // used to check if new software is incoming
	} // repeat forever
	return 0;
} // int main( )
```

This `main.cpp` file, does all the work behind the scenes to only ask **you** to provide the contents of `setup( )` and `loop( )`

So, in `setup( )` you tell the pins with LEDs connected to be outputs:

```
pinMode( pinNumber, OUTPUT );
```

And this needs to happen for every LED connected.

And then in `loop( )`, we turn those LEDs on and off, by making their pins `HIGH` or `LOW`.

```
digitalWrite( pinNumber, HIGH );
```

or

```
digitalWrite( pinNumber, LOW );
```

So that is the control we have: make the pins outputs, and then make the output 5 volts or 0 volts. (Yes, there are 3.3 volt systems too, we know.)

...blink, blink, blink, beep, beep, smoke, less smoke, more smoke, smoke clearing ... yes we know ... but the steam engine will pass and all will become clear...

Now what do we do with this?
We turn an LED on, wait 1/2 a second and turn it back on, wait 2 1/2 seconds and turn it back on, and then repeat!

And that is a beacon! Install it on a tall tower and call the airspace safe. But what about the other pins? Well, you can easily turn a second LED on and off and call it beacon 2.0! And then you want it a little out of sequence, so you do the math: Turn 1 on; wait 1/2 a second: turn it off; wait another 1/2 a second: turn #2 on; wait 1/2 a second: turn #2 off; wait...what huh? Yes, you can do the math and get it up and working in less than 10 minutes. Then you add the third beacon and redo ALL the math and it works. And then you discover a welder, with some random "waits", subtract it from the first 1/2 second and only wait that amount...and so forth...all doable, for real.

But, would this not be a whole lot less math:

```
void loop( ) {
 beacon1.update( );
 beacon2.update( );
 beacon3.update( );
 welder1.update( );
 welder2.update( );
} // loop( )
```

Sorry, here is the less math full version, where every beacon and every welder runs itself, so they all use the same math:

```
#define DELAYSTART     500
#define BEACONPERIOD  3000
#define BEACONONTIME   500
#define WELDERPAUSE    250
#define BEACON1PIN       5
#define BEACON2PIN       6
#define BEACON3PIN       7
#define WELDER1PIN       8
#define WELDER2PIN       9

Beacon beacon1 = Beacon( BEACON1PIN, BEACONPERIOD, BEACONONTIME, 0 );
Beacon beacon2 = Beacon( BEACON2PIN, BEACONPERIOD, BEACONONTIME, DELAYSTART );
Beacon beacon3 = Beacon( BEACON3PIN, BEACONPERIOD, BEACONONTIME, 2 * DELAYSTART );

Welder welder1 = Welder( WELDER1PIN, WELDERPAUSE );
Welder welder2 = Welder( WELDER2PIN, 1.5 * WELDERPAUSE );

void setup( ) {
 beacon1.setup( );
```

```
 beacon2.setup( );
 beacon3.setup( );
 welder1.setup( );
 welder2.setup( );
} // setup( )

void loop( ) {
 beacon1.update( );
 beacon2.update( );
 beacon3.update( );
 welder1.update( );
 welder2.update( );
 // And that is it!!!
} // loop( )
```

And what hides inside **Welder** and **Beacon** classes as defined with

```
Beacon beacon3 = Beacon( BEACON3PIN, BEACONPERIOD, BEACONONTIME, 2 * DELAYSTART );
```

and

```
Welder welder1 = Welder( WELDER1PIN, WELDERPAUSE );
```

?

Come to the clinic! See you there!

ML

Thank You!!
For Fifty Years
1-1-19
Thank you!

Virginia Campo Freitag

SEPTEMBER 25, 1938 – APRIL 19, 2022

Virginia "Ginger" Anne Campo Freitag, 83, of Houston, Texas, passed away peacefully on April 19, 2022. Virginia was born to Salvatore and Marie Vetrano Campo on September 25, 1938, in Houston, Texas.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her siblings, Frances Bailey, Vincent Campo, and Rose Ulrich; and her grandson, Scott Adkins Jr. Virginia is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Gilbert Alden Freitag; their five children, Denise Kubecka (James), Gilbert Alan Freitag (Emmy), Darlene LeBrock (David), Sharlene Miller (Mike), and Theresa Adkins (Ken); and 12 grandchildren, Stephanie Kubecka LeDuc (Nelson), Megan Kubecka, Paul Miller (Hannah), Steven Kubecka, Brandi Adkins, Mason Kubecka, Brittany Miller, Katie Freitag, Thomas Adkins, Kristen LeBrock, Madison LeBrock, and Allison Adkins; and countless other extended family members and friends.

In looking for a way to describe Virginia's mission in life, one might look to words from Matthew 20:26, "Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant." If that is the case, she set the bar high when modeling what it means to be a great wife, mother, grandmother, and friend.

Whether it was the countless hours driving carpools, sewing dresses, cooking family dinners, or embracing her favorite title of "grandma", Virginia did so with a servant heart. She planned family cross-country camping trips that seemed to always go through Colorado, opened the family home to hundreds of other railfans for Layout Tours and San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Christmas parties, and coordinated events from birthday parties to weddings to activities at local, state, and national Model Railroad conventions without ever asking for anything in return.

The joy her actions gave others was enough. If there was any question about her deep belief in living a life of service to others, it was answered by her unwavering devotion to and care for her husband over the twelve years since his stroke.

A visitation for Virginia will be held Monday, April 25, 2022, from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM at Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home, and with a rosary at 8:00 PM. An additional short visitation will be held Tuesday, April 26, 2022, from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 7250 Harrisburg Blvd, Houston, TX 77011. A funeral mass will begin at 11:00 AM with a reception after the mass from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM at the parish hall. A procession will leave the church at 2:30 PM for a graveside service at 3:00 PM at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery.

-Forest Park Lawndale obituary

It is with a sad heart that I have to inform you of the passing of the LSR Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag. For more than SO years, Virginia supported the LSR in many forms. She was a person of high energy, quick wit, and a love and devotion seldom scene today. To honor her, lets review a few of her many accomplishments:

Virginia and Gil hosted open houses for the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club's November Layout Tours (later called the Fall Layout Tours) from 1972 until 2021, with the only exception being the 2020 Covid cancellation of the in-person tours.

Virginia and Gil hosted the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club Christmas Party in their home for around 50 years from 1970 or 71 to 2019. The 2021 Christmas Party was held at the Harris County Bayland Park community center and Virginia and Gil were presented with a plaque and giant thank you card signed by all of the San Jac attendees.

Virginia served the LSR as the Non-Rail events coordinator for conventions for many, many decades.

Virginia served as the non-rail coordinator for the 1989 NMRA National Convention held in Houston. She later received the Achievement Certificate for Association Volunteer for this service.

Virginia was awarded the 1995 John E. Loeffler Award for service to the LSR. This award was later renamed the Loeffler/Freitag award and still later changed to the "Freitag Award". The "Freitag Award" was deliberately named that to honor BOTH Freitags for their many years of service to the LSR.

Virginia was the mother of five children and Grandmother to 12.

And last, but certainly not least: it is universally agreed by Houston Model Railroaders, and all the LSR Members, that Virginia is fully qualified for sainthood for her unwavering devotion to and care for Gil since his stroke in March of 2010.

This is a person who lived a full life and will be remembered for all the things she contributed.

-Jeff Palmer

LSR Convention Clinic Preview!

Louisiana Sugarcane Railroads

by Phil Stewart

Godchaux Yard, circa 1910 at the beginning of the harvesting season. Cars on the storage tracks are loaded with cut sugar cane that will be sent to the grinding wheels in the mill for extracting juice. Godchaux utilized a 3 foot gauge tramway, called, the Mississippi River Sugar Belt Railroad (Louisiana State Museum).

Godchaux Sugar Mill Complex Field in the foreground is ready for harvest. Smokestacks are from the boiling kettles that turn sugarcane juice into sugar crystals. Locomotive is in route to pick up empties from the yard and bring them to the field to load cut sugarcane. (W.E. Butler Collection).

When Leon Godchaux, the King of Sugar, bought his first Baldwin 0-4-4- T in 1895, he ushered in the Golden Age of Louisiana plantation railroads. At its peak in 1925, southern Louisiana had over 150 plantation railroads, 3,000 miles of track, 500 loco-motives and over 15,000 pieces of rolling stock. The latter, consisting mostly of a wide assortment of "cane cars", hauled cut sugarcane from the field to the mill.

All plantations used different types of cane cars to suit their own needs. Some were wood, some were steel, and all were unique. The Southcoast Corporation, which owned over 26 plantations, offered more than 1,600 cane cars. They used 40', 10 ton, 4 truck cane cars with knuckle couplers over a 3' narrow gauge railroad.

Just a few miles away, the Westfield Plantation used 15' wood cars with a single 4-wheel truck and link and pin couplers over a 30" narrow gauge railroad.

Most of the little tea kettles, as these small narrow gauge locomotives were called, traversed over 3' gauge tramroads. Tramroads were the name locals used for plantation railroads. There was a smattering of two foot and 30" gauge, and three standard gauge tramroads.

The most unique standard gauge plantation railroad belonged to the Pelican State Plantation in West Feliciana Parish. Two coal fired 2-6-2s worked 3,000 acres of sugarcane fields cultivated by guests of the State of Louisiana. That's right, the state penitentiary at Angola produced a vast array of agricultural products using inmate labor. Although the trains are long gone, the cane fields are still hoed by prisoners.

Sugarcane was primarily grown south of Baton Rouge. The old saying in Bayou Country is "Cane to the South, Cotton to the North." All plantations were situated near water, especially on either side of the Mississippi from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, affectionately known as the "River Road."

The other water source was furnished by bayous Teche, Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Plaquemine. In fact, water played a far more important role in the transportation of sugarcane and sugar by-products than main line railroads in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Small paddle wheeled boats would push barges loaded with sugarcane from one plantation to a mill, and finished sugar products to New Orleans for export around the world.

Lulu Factory Scale House, part of the 3 foot narrow gauge Lulu Plantation Rail-road near Belle Rose, Louisiana. All cars were weighed before going to the mill for processing. Note the link and pin couplers on this all wood car. (C. W. Witbeck Collection)

Magnificent Houmas House near Burnside, Louisiana. Houmas House had one of the largest sugar mills in the state and a vast railroad network. Although still standing and available for public tours, a visitor to this wonderful home will never hear about this plantation railroad from any tour guides that escort you through the house and grounds. (Louisiana Plantation Homes)

The Mississippi river became the front yard of these magnificent palaces prior to the 1920's. During this time, over 100 sugar plantations dotted the banks of the Mississippi from Baton Rouge to New Orleans. The river was also used in the place of roads, as the latter didn't come into being until the mid 1920's.

Since the first Mansion appeared along the river in the late 18th century, one could look downstream from the top of one of the massive oaks and see his neighbor's grand homes. That all changed in the sum-mer of 1927 when a great flood from a hurricane put most of south Louisiana under water. State and federal building programs increased the height of the levees that paralleled the river from 3 to 30 feet.

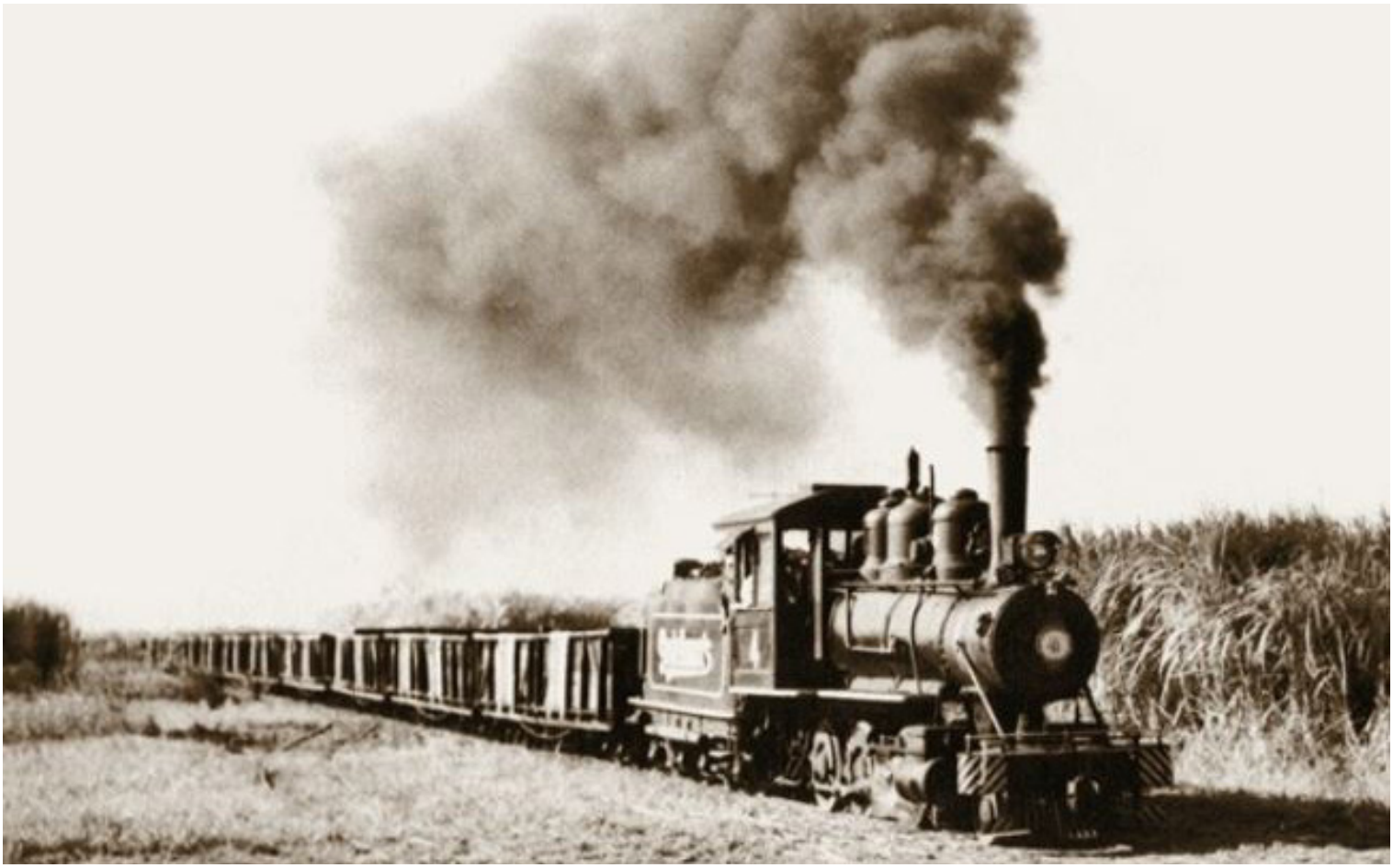
Paved roads were also added on both banks of the Mississippi during the first part of the 20th century. Many of these plantation homes are still standing to-day, and have been used as the backdrops for count-less movies. To one who has been "plantation hunting" in Louisiana, the names of Homas House, Bo-cage, Oak Alley, Laura and San Francisco will be recognizable. Sadly on most guided tours of these wonderful old homes, the tour guide neglects to mention the railroads that were winding through the thousands of acres of sugarcane that surrounded these homes.

The modeling possibilities of Louisiana sugarcane plantations and surrounding areas are endless. For starters, a layout can be multi-gauge, multi-scale, and include urban areas, waterways, docks, water transportation, passenger trains, agricultural industries, stately homes, forests, swamps, magnificent trees, lots of steam locomotives, Mardi Gras festivities and even a prison.

Operating a sugarcane railroad can be a challenge as well. Unlike operating a main line railroad, no timetable or rule book exists. All of the operation takes place on the plantation. As mentioned, earlier main line railroads had little place at sugar plantations until a few decades into the 20th century.

Most of the finished agricultural products were transported to market by water, and goods arrived at plantations and towns by the same method. If a plantation didn't have a mill for processing the cut cane, it was sent down stream to a neighboring plantation for processing into sugar, molasses or syrup. Operation consisted of the yard-master making up a consist of empty cane cars which were dispatched to the fields to cut the cane.

These trains also took workers into the field and returned them to the "quarter houses" after the day was done. After the empty cane cars were dropped off at the



Godchaux number 4, a 2-6-0 Baldwin built in 1904, with a full head of steam in route to the fields with empties to be filled with cut sugarcane. (Louisiana State University, Department of Agriculture)

field, another locomotive returned to the field to pick up full cars to bring them to a scale for weighing. The full cars were placed on storage tracks, and then shunted from the scale to the conveyor belt where the cane was ground; the remaining juice was boiled, and eventually crystallized to become refined sugar.

A by-product of the cut cane was bagasse (pronounced buh-gas'). It is the fibrous material that surrounds the sugar in the cane stalk. Bagasse was originally used as fuel, but in the 1920's, began to be used as "fiber board". To this day the Celotex Corporation manufactures millions of board feet of this product for distribution throughout the United States and the world. Bagasse was also a product shipped by water and later by main line railroads. By the early twenties main line railroads also hauled other types of sugar products such as molasses, syrup, bagged sugar and a product called black strap molasses used as animal feed. Tank cars, in some instances hauled molasses and other liquid sugar products to market.

Cane fields were planted every four years and only the fields that were harvested were involved in the majority of railroad operations. However, the plantation railroads did a lot more than haul cut cane from the field to the mill. Steam tractors on flat cars were hauled to the field for planting. A weed killing car was hooked to the back of a cane car consist to clear the track from weeds. Several plantation railroads had passenger cars which were attached to locomotives to carry passengers from plantation to plantation, and from docks to various towns along bayous and rivers. They also ferried school children from plantations to schools which were usually on one plantation, to serve the needs of the surrounding communities.

Southdown had a homemade passenger car in contrast to Laura Plantation's two ancient wood passenger cars converted to 3 foot gauge from standard gauge. After converting from water transportation to main line railroads, operating sessions could entail drop offs and pickups of goods to the plantation. Then the refined bag sugar, molasses in tank cars and raw cane could be also taken to mills jointly owned by several plantations.

At the LSR Convention in Temple, I will give a more detailed clinic on Louisiana Sugarcane Railroads. We'll discuss the history of sugarcane production in Louisiana, the sugarcane making process, the development of plantation railroads, locomotives and rolling stock that served them. We'll also discuss ways to convert all of this information into a model railroad and scenes, structures and scenery that could be used in such an enterprise. ML

Luke Williams

Youth Award Winners 2022

by Jim Lemmond
LSR Youth Chair

Foster Campbell
Luke Williams
Jonathan Andersen

The following youth have been nominated by their LSR Divisions to receive the LSR 2022 Youth Award: Division 1 – Foster Campbell (11 years old), Division 6 – Luke Williams (15 years old) and Division 8 – Jonathan Andersen (15 years old).

Division 1: Foster Campbell (11 years old)

I love going out and exploring the railroads, seeing unique engines, and meeting new people that also share this hobby. For me, the east Texas rail lines and the flat plains are great for
railfanning and photography. I love to photograph both model trains and real trains. I like to see the scenery of America through the railroads.

Division 6: Luke Williams (15 years old)

The members of the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) nominate Luke Williams for the NMRA Youth Award for 2022.

Luke is 15 years old, and has been a member of SAMRA for 2 years. Luke's interest in trains goes back to age 2 when he received his wooden Thomas the Tank Engine set. Since that time, Luke's interest in both railfanning and modeling have continued to grow.

Luke built an N-scale home layout and then switched to HO scale. He is presently working a 4x8 HO scale layout in his bedroom, representing a small Texas town in the early 1950s. His favorite roads to model are Santa Fe in the 1950s, and Union Pacific in the modern era.

From the hobby, Luke has learned how to solder, and now does his own decoder installations. He took the initiative to add a decoder to an HO Thomas engine so that he could run it at the SAMRA club for younger children who visit. He has also detailed passenger cars with lighting and passengers, as seen in the photo with his RDC.

Luke also runs his own YouTube channel featuring his DCC installations, railfanning, and videos of the trains that he runs on his own layout and at SAMRA.

Recently, the SAMRA club-built modules for a temporary train display at the DoSeum, San Antonio's children's museum. Luke is the featured star of a video that plays at the display.

Luke has expressed an interest in working in the rail industry, perhaps as an engineer.

Division 8: Jonathan Andersen (15 years old)

My name is Jonathan Andersen and I am currently a 15 year old member of All Points North Model Railroading Association in Conroe, Texas (APN). A few years ago I wanted to have a hobby outside of school that I knew other people would be interested in and that I would stay interested in. At the age of 10 my dad and I joined the model railroading club together. Here are a few things that I've learned about model railroading.

During my time at APN my favorite activity has been to work on scenery. This included gluing people in specific spots including construction sites and a haunted house scene. I have also built HO scale buildings including a lumber yard and real estate office. Another project I participated in was carving foam used to shape terrain. Since we joined, my dad and I have had the fun of helping maintain the scenery for two entire towns on the layout we are responsible for.
In the process of learning about model railroading hobby, I have also learned even more about real life train operations.

Once a month, APN runs an operating session where people can come and get a manifest for a specific train and run it around the layout. For example, I have learned how to drop off and pick up train cars from cities efficiently and accurately and how to plan for interactions with other trains on the way. During an operating session we have to communicate with the dispatcher by radio in order to clear our route with other people running trains at the same time.

One other thing I have enjoyed is working together with other people on model railroading skills. This included helping member John Christiansen with placing people and buildings in a city. I also helped member Stan Walton carve out a mountainside contour. I have also put forward my ideas for helping to improve operations like suggesting that we shorten some of the manifests in our railroading operations from 2 hours down to about 45 minutes. In the past I have gone to a couple business meetings and I have seen first hand how our club operates and continues to grow 40 years after it first started.

In summary, my interest in model railroading has expanded over the past few years. I have gained more skills involving modeling and scenery work by working with people who have been developing those techniques for many years. Finally, I have learned more about how a group of people can come together and accomplish a common goal. I look forward to how my interests will expand around model railroading through continued participation in this hobby.

August 23, 2021

John and Carita Christiansen
87 East Slatestone Circle, The woodlands, TX 77382
713-851-1641
johncbug@yahoo.com

Mr. Stan Walton
All Points North Model Railroad Association
611 S Magnolia Dr.
Conroe, TX 77301

Dear Stan,

During our APN Monthly Business Meeting, we became aware of your intention to submit Jonathan Andersen's names for a National Model Railroad Association (NMRA) Youth Award and requested that those of us who know Jonathan speak of his experience and activity in the hobby.

APN has a clubhouse in Conroe, TX where we have a HO scale model railroad layout with approximately 1800 square feet in operation and various stages of layout completion. As anyone experienced in Model Railroading knows the hobby requires skill, time, and patience. Jonathan's father, John, is an APN member. Our practice is to let Jonathan participate under his father's supervision. John (the father) is an electronics expert and works on our club communications, control systems, wireless and railroad signal system. Jonathan is his father's electrical apprentice and has learned to run wire and cable, the practices of electrical and instrument control, how to work safely with the electrical side of the railroad. He shows a lot of interest in helping and lots of patience.

In our railroad we have towns that may be a city, village, industry, farm, etc. I have a peninsula city called Metropolis. Scenicking such a large area has been a challenge. Jonathan asked to create some mini scenes to fill scenic voids. He did basic scene creation by building a scenery base with Sculptamold® and clay products. Then he colored it, adapted inexpensive basic structures and created scenes. The art was that he painted all the structures realistically and and detailed them with figures, vegetation materials and vehicles to tell a story. He has an artists' eye to crease a scene with focus points and perspectives. See some examples in the pictures that follow:

Figure 1 Jonathan created the construction scene “Under the Bridge”. If you look closely the backhoe is digging into a excavation (see the ladder sticking out). This creates a focal point for the scene and the work around it compliments the focus. Everyone except the big boss is wearing the appropriate safety gear

Figure 2 The Trailways Bus terminal scene has a rooftop repair and has a Starbucks Kiosk inside for focus points

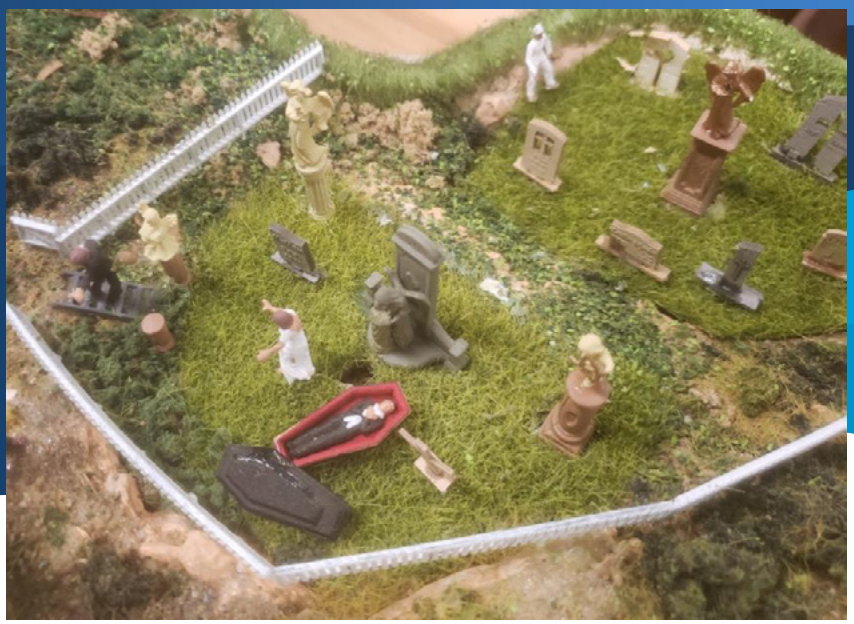


Figure 3 At a corner of the layout Jonathan created a Zombi-Vampire scene with the dead rising from the graveyard next to a lighted Haunted House. The open grave blinks red for a focus point

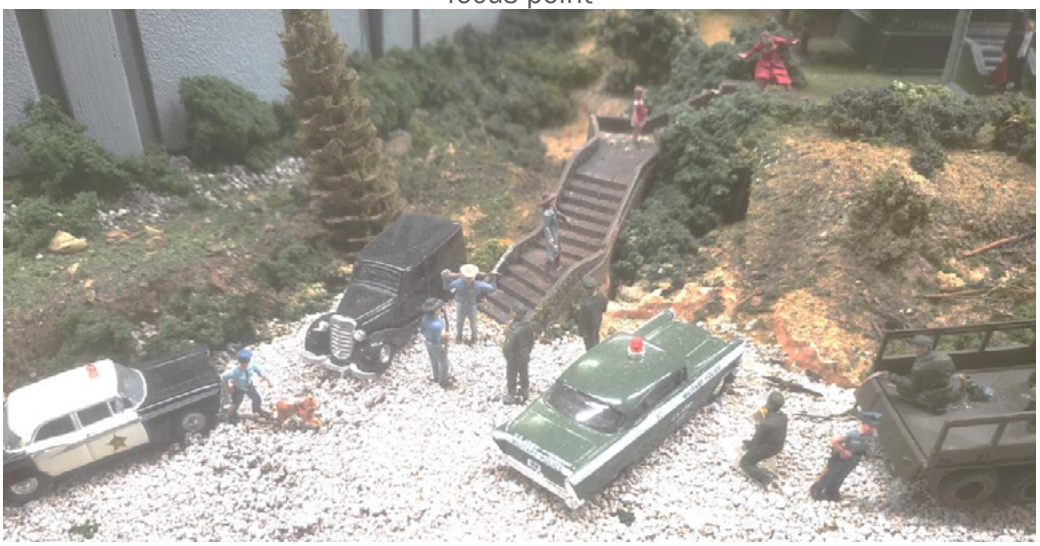


Figure 4 Good news Jonathan arranged figures and vehicles to show the police and army have arrived to deal with the Walking Dead, while the Fearless Vampire Hunter (in red) warns them this is not going to be easy

In summary, Jonathan is someone who belongs in the hobby, has a great imagination and a bright future. We need to cultivate his interest and help him become a mature Model railroader (and maybe a future club President!). Make sure his value is recognized.

Sincerely,

John A. Christiansen

John Christiansen, VP All Points North
713-851-1641

ML

The LSR in CENTRAL TEXAS

by Bob Barnett, MMR
LSR Historian

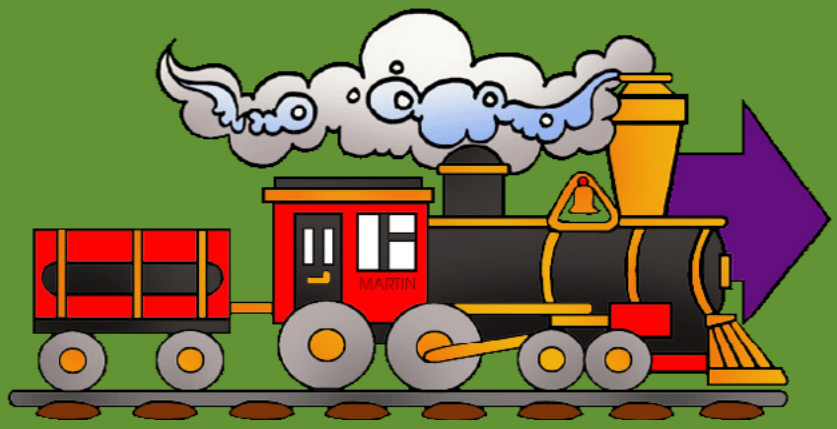
Riley Triggs

This year the LSR Convention is being held in Temple. Temple is ideally located for a railroad gathering being a 2-to-3-hour drive from most of the larger population centers in Texas including Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin. The success of the well-attended Temple Train Show each September for over 35 years is excellent testimony.

But other LSR Conventions have been held in the Heart of Texas over the years. The second annual LSR convention was held in Waco in 1952 and the fifth in 1955. In the first 14 years of the LSR's existence Waco hosted the Convention three times. In 1988 well known Austin model railroader Chuck Ellis assembled a group of friends and hosted the first LSR Convention in Austin.

Since then, three Conventions have been held in Round Rock, the first in 2007 and the most recent in 2018.

So, hats off and a big Texas THANK YOU to our friends in the Central Texas Division for hosting the eighth LSR convention held in the central part of what is now known as the I-35 Corridor. ML



Wanted! Nominees for the LSR 2022 Youth Award

- **Who:** Any boy or girl 18 years old or younger with an interest in model railroading.
- **Where:** One nominee from each LSR Division.
- **A past awardee:** May be renominated for another year if they meet the qualifications specified in the LSR Constitution. **Contact Jim Lemmond jimlem@comcast.net**

How: Fill out the special Youth Award Membership Form available on **http://www.lonestarregion.com/**

When: Submit your nomination to **your LSR Division Director** by December 1, 2022.

For more information contact:
Jim Lemmond, Youth Chairman: **jimlem@comcast.net**

NOW AVAILABLE!

Color

Pike and Dealer Ads

Pike and dealer ads are now available in color for the same price! Share your railroad or advertise your business to others while supporting the Lone Star Region.

- **Do you have a herald for your railroad?**
- **Is there a unique feature?**
- **What is the name of your hotshot freight or crack passenger service?**

Let everyone know about it with a color ad!

Pike ads are $8 per year and dealer ads are $20 per year.

Payment should be made out to:
LSR NMRA

Contact Speed Muller
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com

Ads can then be sent as a JPG file attached to an email to:
rileytriggs@gmail.com

LONE STAR REGION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Lone Star Region Board Meeting
Temple, Texas – January 29, 2022

President Donna Orr called the Annual Board meeting to order at 1:05 PM. This was followed by a motion to suspend Robert's Rules of Order. The motion passed.

Roll call

All of the officers, directors and committee chairpersons were present except:
Voting Board Members:
Gert Muller
Ken Mason
Marc LaChey
Pete Leach

Non-voting Board Members:
Virginia Freitag

Visitors
None.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Secretary Jeff Palmer provided a motion and Phil Stewart seconded to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve, as published the Minutes of the June 12, 2021 Annual Board of Directors meeting published in the 2021 Summer issue of The Marker Lamp. The motion designated as 2022-01-29 LSR Motion 1 passed.

Officers Reports

President Donna Orr
Can you believe it? It's holiday time again. Model Trains under the trees for Christmas. Do you remember when you saw your first model train? When you decided that model trains were going to be the hobby for you? Or did it creep up on you later in life? This time of year, is a great time to remember those childhood days when you didn't have to worry about anything except watch the trains run. There is something mesmerizing about watching trains run.

We all know that membership in the NMRA is waning. However, thinking about how I became interested in trains, why not convince those that you know, to get train sets for under the Christmas Tree,

and if not under the tree, how about its own tree?

Back to model trains, what are you plans for your own layout? Or would you be interested in some other facet of our great hobby? Have you seen some of the Lego trains? Very interesting. And for those of you that do not have the space for a large layout, what about getting together with a few others in your area and start a module group. What are you noticing about trends in both our model train hobby and real-life rail? Autonomous Trains? Artificial intelligence? Decarbonization? Automation? Augmented and Virtual Reality? (there I go again with the Sci-Fi) Check it out and see. Let me know what you think.

For me, personally, I'm still trying to get all of my layouts up and running. But it is "Christmas Time" and at my house we are putting up our animated lighting display. It's a little bigger this year. With a Santa Land outdoor train display. Lights and songs should be running the Saturday after thanksgiving. Come by in December and watch and listen and come in and visit.

I hope everyone has a great Thanksgiving and really enjoys "the most wonderful time of the year"

Vice President Ray Byer
I hope all reading this report are in good health. Last year 2021 was changing in some ways and in other ways, was fun. In 2021, I was asked to work on a committee looking at the By-laws. To see if they need any changes or updates to them. I have been slow on working on them thru the ladder part of 2021 due to some personal issues. There are some areas and parts of the By-laws that do need to be updated, but one of the questions I was asking myself is "How any of the LSR Board and it's Department Heads have read the By-laws and understand their duties."

So, let us start with me "Vice President," as an elected officer to the board my duties are "The Vice President shall aid and assist the President in all ways possible; and shall preside in the absence of the President at meetings of the Lone Star Region or the Board of Directors. In the event of inability of the President to serve, the Vice President shall assume the Presidency and the Board of Directors shall elect a new Vice President to fill the un-expired term." It looks straight forward cut and dry right? Here is my question, what happens when the Vice President does not wish to serve as acting President? Who is the next in-line to be LSR President? Is this a Board problem or does the By-laws need to state, "In the event that the Vice President doesn't wish to assume the Office of President, then the Past President will assume the Office until the next election can be arranged"? These are some small questions that may need to be asked. The only part in the By-laws that has the most information and direction are the Directors in their duties. The President and Vice-President, Secretary and Treasury has little to no information about how or who will be their replacement, or does it need to be stated?

So, let us look at my next duties that I work on, The LSR Contest. All you need to know is right here and spelled out in black and white, see below.
Contest. Duties are:
a) The administration of all regional contests. The NMRA Contest Directory will be the example for region rules. Any changes from these rules shall be approved by the Board of Directors and published in the Marker Lamp at least six (6) months before taking effect.
b) The responsibility for the Contest trophies, insuring that traveling trophies are returned prior to the Annual Meeting; and passed on for the acceptance of additional trophies should any be offered.
c) Presentation of trophies and awards at the Annual Meeting.
d) Preparation and submittal of a suitable photograph for use in the NMRA Calendar.

So, starting with part "A" it is straight forward. I see no problems, but the wording "The administration of all Regional contests" do you see any administration information outlined or regional contest outlined? Do you see any information on giving the LSR board a cost on how much the LSR spends on the awards? Do you see why the LSR need to wait 6 months before contest rules go effect?

Part "B" The responsibility for the Contest trophies, insuring that traveling trophies should be returned prior to the Annual Meeting; and pass on the acceptance of any new or additional trophies should any be offered. What are Contest Trophies? Does the LSR still have traveling trophies? What is it talking about?

Part" C" Presentation of trophies and awards at the Annual Meeting. Is this at a banquet dinner at a convention or at the annual business meeting?

Part "D") Preparation and submittal of a suitable photograph for use in the NMRA Calendar. Me, I think that this should be part of the LSR Photography or the Web Site members duties. What do you think?

Do you see any information talking about how a convention committee need to setup the contest room or manpower needed in the room? How does the Contest Chairman or Co-Chairman pick judges for the Contest Room?

And now the last of my duties, the Parliamentarian. This part of the By-Laws is clear on what they need to do as part of their duties.
Parliamentarian:
a) Provide members and the executive board with training on simple parliamentary procedures (how to state a motion, rules of debate, quorums, etc.)
b) Maintain a copy of the Constitution and By-Laws at every general and executive meeting.
c) Sit near the presiding officer during meetings.
d) Assist with voting procedures.
e) Support the president in maintaining order

So going back to my original question "How any of the LSR Board and it's Department Heads have read the By-laws and understand their duties." I can say "I have read the By-laws and I understand some of the duties that I am ask to preform for the LSR. But it is not very clear in some areas. Do we need to look at the By-Laws? "YES" we do, but all the Board and the Committee Chairs need to read and look at their part of the By-Laws. After doing this, bring back to the By-Laws Committee their ideas on what information is needed to be changed. In this way, when the next elected Board member or appointed Committee chairman comes to the Board and ask "what is my Duties, we as a group can say, please read the Bylaws ".

So, my question is "Have you read the LSR By-Laws, and do you understand them as written?"

Secretary Jeff Palmer
Since our June 12, 2021 BOD meeting, the LSR Secretary is working with the Nomination Chair, Pete Leach, to hold the 2022 LSR Officers election this coming March. The first phase of the process is to identify the candidates, and obtain their profile and Pete is moving forward in this area. This phase will close on January 1, 2022. The second phase will be to turn all of the profiles over to the web chair and the building of the election website - https://geekwithtrains.com. The last phase is to report back to the Nomination Chair with the online results to be merged with the snail mail results.

Each month, the secretary posts the NMRA Roster Reports to each of the LSR Officers, Division Directors, the Membership Chair and the AP Chair.

Currently the secretary is trying to pull together the various reports from the other LSR Officers and Chairs in preparation of the January 29, 2022, mid-year BOD meeting. The cooperation of the officers and chairs would be greatly appreciated.

Looking forward to the 2022 convention in Temple.

As covered in the Web chair Report, the LSR Website continues to be stable. I would also like to thank Chris Atkins for allowing the LSR to use the https://geekwithtrains.com website to hold our elections.

One last note, please remember in your reporting that education is our prime directive and to hi-lite it where possible in your reporting.

Treasurer Gert "Speed" Muller
The Treasurer's Report, was submitted by email to the Board members and is summarized as follows:

Treasurer's Financial Mid-year Report for 2021/2022

by Speed Muller (LSR Treasurer)
lsrtreasurer@hunatrophy.com

So, since the 3rd quarter has not run the test of time yet, the numbers for the first half matches the beginning and end of the 1st and 2nd quarters. We know that the Tulsa Convention has repaid their $1,000 advancement and also provided us with $761.49 of income to keep our budget in the green, thank you! All these numbers will be shown in the 3rd quarter report in our next Marker Lamp.

Speed.

First Semester, 2021/2022:

Beginning Balances (2021/05/01)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$41,821.37
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,821.37**
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86
Division 5 and 7 Rebates in Escrow	$ 167.00
Delattre Fund	$ 660.00
Outstanding checks	$ 429.48
Future Advances due	$-1,000.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$43,606.71**
Proceeds	
NMRA Rebate	$ 774.00
Total Proceeds	**$ 774.00**
Disbursements	
Marketing at DFW Train Show	$ 575.00
Audio Visual Tools	$ 217.44
NMRA Rebates to Divisions	$ 387.00
Delattre Fund member	$ 82.00
Payout of Div 5 Escrow	$ 40.50
Total Disbursements	**$ 1301.94**
Net Proceeds-Disbursements	**$ -527.94**
Updates to Restricted Funds:	
Delattre Fund	$ -82.00
Division 5 Rebate from Escrow	$ -40.50
Division 7 Rebate into Escrow	$ 12.50
Change in Liabilities	**$ -110.00**
Ending Balances (2021/10/31)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$41,415.93
Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,415.93**
Bob Clarke Award	$ 528.86
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow	$ 139.00
Delattre Fund	$ 578.00
Outstanding checks	$ 107.50
Future Advances due	$-1,000.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$42,769.29**

Advisor Chuck Lind
Turned the Presidency over to Donna. Nothing else happening which is a great feeling.

Directors Reports

Division 1 Director Mike Mackey reported:

Division 1 continues to prosper throughout these trying times. In spite of declining membership across the entire organization, Division 1 has remained steady and has seen only a slight decrease of less than 1% over the last 5 years. The Division leadership team has also recently been strengthened by the addition of two new Webmasters and a new Program Manager.

Attendance for meetings in person and via Zoom remains at about 30% of the division membership. The annual Christmas Party was attended by just over 50 individuals and, after a pot luck dinner, we recognized three individuals for outstanding contributions to the division. Darrel Cowles received the Jim Norwood Memorial Award for Outstanding Member of the Year, Jay Waters received the John Garfield Volunteer of the Year Award and David Crumpton received the Leo Palitti Memorial Award for Outstanding Craftsman of the Year. We also recognized Forest Hill City Manager Venus Wehle for her ongoing support of the division.

2022 promises to be another year of growth as we already have nearly a full slate of clinics scheduled for the coming year. Be sure to check out our monthly meetings on the division YouTube channel via our website at www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

Division 2 Director Ken Mason reported:
This time I would like to talk about the CCMRC in Metairie and the damage sustained during Hurricane Ida on August 29, 2021.

The CCMRC club building took a serious hit during Hurricane Ida. The damage was done when neighbor Ron Loupe's entire roof came off the house on the corner behind our club building and rolled over our roof putting four holes in our roof and ripping off our electrical connection to the pole across the street. In addition to that, the Magnolia tree at the southeast end of the building was blown over and knocked a big hole in the back corner of the building as well. The resulting rain and water that got into the building has caused us to have a mold issue too. Luckily it looks like the layout itself escaped without much, if any physical damage that we have been able to access so far, except for a few freight cars and building that were below the debris that fell onto The Trager/Martin Shops area of the layout. The other damage seen so far is water staining on the backdrop in different places. Turner City had some water leak onto that area, but it looks as though no damage was done to the trackage, just the ballast and some scenery. All of this can be put right once we get the roof repaired and the inner ceiling fixed, and the mold remediation handled.

I was the first to the building after the storm and has pictures of the damage from inside and out. The roof that caused our damaged ended up landing across N. Lester Ave on the front yard of the yellow house with the utility pole that held our electrical wire. See the pictures in the latest Marker Lamp for details if you have not seen them already.

CCMRC member and electrician David Rills was able to get the electrical meter re-installed and Entergy came out right away to connect our power.

President Greg Javonillo has been working very hard to try and find different options for funding the repairs. Hopefully something may come from all his effort.

The club has created a Go Fund Me page with the help of David Perkins, David Haslauer and Greg Javonillo working to get the details ironed out. The link is here:

https://www.gofundme.com/f/catastrophic-hurricane-ida-damage-on-the-ccmrc?utm_campaign=p_cf+share-flow-1&utm_medium=-copy_link&utm_source=customer

Please help if you can. We have already had a few donations from club members even before the Go Fund Me page has gone live.

We are also reviewing estimates for the roof repairs and hope to have a contractor working on that ASAP. We need to get the building repaired as soon as we can because if we do not have the building, we do not have a club.

That's all for now. Please help if you can. Any donation is much appreciated. We will succeed in getting this repaired and the club will go on.

Division 3 Director Charles Goodrich reported:

Division 3 has been having live meetings since August. Attendance has been a little less than before Covid but the programs have been very good. Attendance should improve as more people feel comfortable in a group setting. We plan to continue with live meetings and to offer real content during the meetings. Clinics presented were Jeff Palmer giving a clinic on Ground Goop scenic technic, Rodney Doster titled Gap Master Revisited and Thomas Stephens giving a clinic on the Steam to Diesel Transition Era.

Division 3 meets at Christ the King Lutheran church in Allen. The church has been very gracious in providing a meeting place and lets our group concentrate on meeting content instead of finding a place to meet. Meetings are held on the third Saturday each month at 10:00 AM unless there is a conflict with other events.

We reintroduced the Tips and Tricks meeting segment where any member can show a new way of doing things or something that makes modeling faster or easier. A couple of these involved making trees from foxtail fern armatures and a new method for weathering flat car and gondola decks that looks as good as or better than real wood.

Still popular is the show and tell segment where members bring what they are working on to show the group. This is a venue that allows people to show off their modeling skills and gives people a chance to be more involved.

We had our annual Christmas party on December 18th at Dona Orr's house. We had 24 people in attendance. This is about half our normal attendance. It was a great setting though and the smaller number of people allowed for more personal contact and conversation.

There were four achievement awards given this period. Tom Greco received his Association Volunteer certificate, Marc LaChey and Dave Griffith received their Master Builder-Structures and Gert "Speed" Muller received his Golden Spike award.

By the time of our annual directors meeting the January Plano Train Show will be history. The Trinity River Division (Division 3) was responsible for volunteers for the NMRA booth at the show. The show was held on January 15th and 16th, 2022. It is held twice a year at the Plano Event Center. The show is sponsored by the North Texas Council of Railroad Clubs. Thomas Stephens and Betty Mitchell are council members for Division 3. Division 1 heads up the volunteers for the fall show and Division 3 handles the Spring (Winter) Show.

Division 4 Director Bob Thiele reported:
Over the last six months the Division has is starting to transition back to what is called normal. On November 13th the Division held its first in person gathering. As the Division uses Austin rec center for their meeting facilities, this was the first chance to gather. It was great to be able to have conversations in person. Members talked about and showed what they have been up to for the last 20 months.

The one goal of inclusion for all the members was accomplished by also conducting a Zoom meeting for persons who were not able to attend There were a lot of bumps in the road, but valuable information was learned and improvements will be included in the next division meeting in January.

The main focus of the Division director has been to assemble the final pieces for the 2022 convention in Temple Texas. This has been accomplished and it is now time to get the information out. The Website has been built and the website is now up and running. The address for the convention is LSR2022.org. From now until May 2022, media announcement will be disturbed to the regional membership on a regular interval. Comments and ideas from the last four convention have been incorporated in this convention so that members can have an enjoyable experience.

Division 5 Director Books Willig
After I took office in June of 2021, I started to hold virtual meetings. Members from outside the division have been able to join, including

Gordy Robinson, President of the NMRA. I have had the opportunity to meet with a few of the members in person and see what they are working on, and I look forward to meeting more people in the time to come.

I am grateful to see the Lubbock Model Railroad Association gaining new traction. They have a new website and recently held elections for the club. A few members of Division 5 were elected in the LMRA elections. Henry Crawford was elected President, BJ Dorsay was elected Vice President, and David Lamberts was elected to Treasurer. The LMRA also set up a layout display at the American Windmill Museum during Thanksgiving week. Museum Director Sandra Harris stated that the week that the displays were set up, had the museum's highest visitor count. The LMRA also participated in the Polar Express to the Manger program at Hope Lutheran Church, where they set up 4 different layouts in N, HO, O, and G scale. This event brought in 50 children with their parents and grandparents to view the displays. More info about the LMRA can be found at https://lmra806.wordpress.com/

Meetings will continue virtually, and my goal is to maintain a monthly schedule this year. I have set the monthly meetings to occur on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 pm CST. Everyone is welcome to join. If you're interested in presenting a clinic, there are still openings in our calendar for this year.

I recently sent out a survey to the division members to gather information on members' interests, as well as receive ideas for how to enhance division membership.

To assist in communication with division members, I have set up an email list. I will send out a newsletter at the beginning of each month to announce the upcoming meeting times as well as any important regional and national NMRA news. I am also including a section titled "The Extra Board". This new section will allow members to submit a few photos and a brief synopsis about accomplishments or a project they're currently working on. Members are encouraged to send in their submissions for each month's newsletter. If you would like to sign up for updates from the division and when we are holding our monthly meetings go to: http://eepurl.com/hRLLm9

Division 6 Don Winn reported:
The Texas Transportation Museum just wrapped up another successful Santa's Railroad Wonderland program to end the season. Within the museum grounds, the AMRE club and the SanTrak club are both open for business and new members.

The South Texas Railroad Socials have continued on their quarterly meeting schedule, and have moved back to in-person gatherings at the Longhorn Café. Also on a quarterly schedule are the informal ShopTalk sessions held via Zoom.

The SAMRA club is also back to normal operations. A noteworthy project recently completed was a set of dioramas built for the DoSeum, San Antonio's hands-on children's museum. Accompanying the displays is a 3 minute video that shows kids participating at the club layout.

Additional details of local activities can be found in my quarterly reports to the Marker Lamp.

Division 7 Director Don Kimmell reported:
Not too much to report on in Division 7. Covid still has a great number of folks staying very close to home.

We attended the "live steam-up" at Long Leaf, Southern Forestry Heritage Museum in October. Prior to the show, I notified all the members of the division of the event and the possibility of doing a small meeting, but no one was interested. I must say, that they have done a remarkable job in the restoration of the facility. We were there just after they took delivery of the Heister locomotive. I know this might sound strange, but it is a down right "cute" for a locomotive.

I supplied Jeff with a list of the names of "former" members of Division 7 who have died, moved, quit the hobby or disappeared last fall to submit to National so that they could remove them from that list. In the December 21' Report, they are still listed. Is this something each Division Director needs to communicate directly to National?

I have asked if my members want to "get together" sometime in the furture, but have not heard anything back yet.

Division 8 Director Phil Stewart reported:
Division 8 has been busy with clinics. To start the New Year we have a new meeting place and new clinician. Kelly Russell, the Regions newest Master Model Railroader will be conducting a clinic on the Achievement Program. We are inviting anyone in the Division to bring a model that they are working on and Kelly will offer tips on how to make the model worthy of a merit award in route to an Achievement award. Kelly will also review the requirements and paperwork for each Achievement Award. We have also invited other MMR's to participate in our clinic and offer tips on model construction.

We ended 2021 with an outstanding clinic by Ray Byer on layout planning. Ray went through step by step planning of an N scale layout. Group discussion was encouraged and we enjoyed an excellent give and take with several great ideas on how to make a model railroad.

Division 8 plans 5 more clinics by the end of year. The Division will also participate in the San Jacinto Train Model Railroad Club Train Show on Saturday, February 12 with a booth to encourage membership in the NMRA.

Director-At-Large Marc LaChey reported:
This is my final report to the LSR Board of Directors. After serving three terms as an At Large Board of Director, I felt it time to step back and allow a new face to earn their "Officials" certificate toward their MMR.

I have also turned over the LSR Convention Chair responsibilities to Joe Leising. Again, an opportunity for someone to earn their "Volunteer" certificate toward their MMR.

And as I work on my scratch-built cars for my "Cars" certificate, my wife will occasionally hear me cussing our AP Chair, Duane Richardson, and his slogan about earning an MMR making you a better modeler. That said, I will admit that I've learned more about the Westinghouse braking system on D&RGW narrow gauge cars than I ever really wanted to know. Duane is right.

Now, at the risk of stepping on Joe Leising's toes as the new Convention Chair, I want to share some thoughts about hosting our regional convention. In my opinion, one of the most important challenges facing the LSR is expanding the number of Divisions hosting a regional convention. Over the past ten years or so, only four of our eight Divisions have stepped up to host a convention. Having half of our divisions take on the burden of hosting a regional convention while the other half stand on the side-lines is not a sustainable model.

As everyone is aware, we had a successful joint regional convention with the Mid-Continent Region this past October. In looking back on how my counterpart, Ken Ehlers and I managed the convention, I realized that Ken and I met only once in person during the sixteen months prior to the convention. In May of 2020, LSR President, Chuck Lind and I drove to Tulsa to meet with Ken. During that visit, the three of us interviewed and toured two hotel properties as potential host venues. Other than this one "in person" meeting, the entire management of the convention was done via email, conference calls and on-line Zoom meetings. While we can all commiserate about the impact of the pandemic on our lives, I think it safe to say that the pandemic also pushed most of us to make use of technology to stay connected.

Over the years I have heard several Division Directors explain that they couldn't host a regional convention because they didn't have this or that…..In my opinion, that dog won't hunt any longer.

What we need from a division to host a convention is a decent venue, either a hotel or meeting facility and at least a handful of layouts or a prototype location to visit. That's all…….And as it relates to the venue, the LSR has the benefit of Joe Leising's vast experience in the hospitality industry to shepherd a local division through that process. The LSR can offer support in the way of our contest committee and can offer guidance for someone serving as the treasurer, registrar, and non-rail chairs.

With the 2022 LSR Convention being capably handled by the leadership of Division 4 and the 2023 Regional Convention being paused in support of the NMRA National, the LSR has some time to prepare for a regional convention in 2024.

In closing, we only have the NMRA that we decide to have by the investment of our time and effort. What are you willing to invest in your NMRA?

Director-At-Large Pete Leach reported:
It's been a hectic Summer leading into Fall for this Director. I couldn't attend the Tulsa Union Convention co-hosted by the LSR, Mid-Continent, and Indian Nations Div. due to family obligations. This is the first LSR Convention I've missed in few years. I do look forward to 2022 Convention in Temple.

I was able to attend the National Narrow Gauge Convention in Hickory, NC. My wife and I made a road trip of it since I was giving a clinic on backdrop painting. I needed to bring supplies and materials for this hands-on clinic. I conducted 2 sessions with 8 participants in each. In addition to the 8 painting participants, I had over 20 observers at each of the two sessions. The audience was appreciative, and we all had a good time.

1 - These 2 photos are curtesy Sam Swanson. He took these during one of the make-and-take sessions at the NNGC in Hickory.
In addition to the clinics, I visited five home layouts in the area. There are some great model railroads in North Carolina! I always come away from these events renewed and inspired. I must say, it was great to have a chance to get back to some sort of normal!

After the convention, my wife and I stopped at the Dollywood Amusement Park for a few days. While walking through the park, I smelled coal smoke and hurried over to see No 70 with a full head of steam pulling a string of excursion cars. The locomotive was built in 1938 by Baldwin for the 3-Foot gauge White Pass & Yukon. It was quite a sight!

2 - No 70 crosses on a trestle under steam at the Dollywood Park in Pidgeon Force, TN

I continue to write monthly articles for the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club newsletter: The DERAIL. A monthly deadline keeps me motivated and at the workbench. I am preparing a clinic to be presented at an upcoming San Jac meeting in January or February. I enjoy preparing and giving clinics. I find it an important part of the hobby.

As Nomination Chair, I have reached out to the current office holders that are up for election in 2022. We have several offices up for election. If anyone is interested in running for office, or have questions about the positions, please contact me by phone or email.

Offices up for election in 2022:

Vice President

Secretary

Division 2, 4, 6, and 8 Directors

3 – Directors at Large

Director-At-Large Darrell Cowles reported:

It seems people are getting out more and enjoying family-oriented activities. At least it looked that way at October Plano Train Show. Attendance was better, more families and everyone's mood seemed much better. I have also seen good in-person attendance at the Division 1 meetings and not so many attending on Zoom. While we will know more about the most recent variant of Covid by the BoD meeting, first impressions are that it is more contagious but less severe. Hopefully that will allow for more modelers out at their club meetings and at the train shows.

I hope to travel this year to several of the clubs in the area for their meetings to see what they have going on and their plans.

Department Reports

Achievement Chair Duane Richardson reported:

The following certificates have been awarded since our last board meeting.

LSR-AP-Report			
FIRSTNAME	NAME	Certificate	Date
Tom	Greco	Prototype Modeler	7/21/2021
Kelly	Russell	Cars	7/21/2021
Kelly	Russell	MMR	7/21/2021
Pete	Leach, MMR	Volunteer	7/21/2021
Randall	Wilson	Author	7/21/2021
Robert	Ashcraft	Civil	7/21/2021
Christopher	Palermo	Official	7/21/2021
PJ	Mackey	Volunteer	7/21/2021
Tom	Greco	Cars	7/21/2021
David	Crumpton	Civil	9/20/2021
Michael	Harang	Volunteer	10/20/2021
Michael	Harang	Author	10/20/2021
Don	Winn	Cars	10/20/2021
Dean	Ferris	Electrical	10/20/2021
Dean	Ferris	Author	10/20/2021
Michael	Ross, MMR	Cars	11/20/2021
Michael	Ross, MMR	MMR	11/20/2021
James	Knabb	Volunteer	11/20/2021
Tom	Crosthwait	Cars	1/20/2022
Tom	Crosthwait	MMR	1/20/2022

Note in this we have 3 new MMR's in Kelly Russell and once approved at National, Tom Crosthwait. His went in this month.

Contest Co-chairs Ray Byer, Jeff Palmer reported:

The last convention in October 2021 was a combined effort of the LSR and MCoR. I want to thank Duane Richardson for plaque work and Betty Mitchell for her check-in and model recording management effort. Without either of these efforts, the Tulsa Contest Room would have been a disaster. Both LSR members put in many tireless hours, to make the contest room function.

Convention Chair Joe Leising reported:
I would first off like to thank Marc LaChey for his insights on the position of the LSR Convention Chairman. Marc has done a fantastic job over the past several years as the LSR Regions Convention Chairman, and I can only hope to do nearly as great a job as Marc has done. Marc will continue representing our region as a Director-At-Large.

Registration is now open for the 2022 Regional Convention, "Where Modeling Meets The Prototype". Bob Thiele and his crew in the Cen-Tex Division 4 have a terrific convention planned for this year. With several great clinics, non-rail activities, and Operations Sessions, this promises to be a don't miss convention. Temple, TX with its central Texas location, makes for a convenient destination from anywhere within in our region. Visit LSR2022.org for more information and to register for the May 5 – 7, 2022 convention. Register before April 1st to take advantage of the Early Bird registration fare.

As Convention Co-Chairs, Division 1 Director Mike Mackey and LSR President Donna Orr are working on the 2023 Texas Express Convention. In lieu of a Regional Convention, we will host the NMRA National Convention on August 21 – 26, 2023. Set aside the dates now and watch for the announcement as registration for the 2023 convention will be opening soon.

The opportunity to host the 2024 LSR Convention and beyond is still available. This will provide the occasion to showcase the talents of local modelers and their layouts, as well as creating a revenue stream for your division. For more information and to discuss, contact me at Joe@Leising.com.

Education Chair, John Lowrance reported:
As a new appointee, the only reportable item is the President's request for ideas on the task of the Education department within the Lone Star Region (LSR) of the National Model Railroad Association (NMRA).

FIRM REQUIREMENT FOR EDUCATION: The LSR has its own Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 501(c)(3) Tax status separate from the NMRAs blanket status as an Educational Organization. IRS documents posted on the LSR site, state that the LSR is a "Public Charity…Private Foundation" required to have a mission that serves the "Public Interest." As a result, Section 1 of the LSR Constitution says our Objective is "…exclusively for educational purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code." Most NMRA and LSR functions can be considered Educational including; Conventions, Clinics, Achievement, Contest, Museum, and Web & Social Media.

NMRA & LSR ORGANIZATIONAL DIFFERENCES: The LSR organization structure is different from the NMRA National. The LSR has separate Convention, Web, Contest, Clinic and Achievement (AP) departments with the Education Department as an afterthought with an unstated role (there is no LSR museum). The NMRA Education Department oversees the Contest, AP, "Modeling With the Masters" clinics and the "EduTrain" Clinic program while live clinics fall under the Convention Dept. and the NMRA museum is a separate corporation (yes it's confusing!).

LSR EDUCATIONAL ROLE: Under existing LSR organization, coordination of educational activities within the LSR and between the LSR and National NMRA might be the primary responsibility with the initial activity to establish committee using some web based communication (Zoom meetings have also been suggested) where educational activities can be shared / duplicated / documented in support of our constitutional and IRS requirements for educational to the public about model railroading.

OTHER OBSERVATIONS AND POSSIBLE ROLES: Assuming our existing managers are aware of and performing their educational role

in their areas of Convention/Contest/AP/Membership/Live Clinics/etc., The Ed person might and look at the unmanned areas like virtual clinics, Virtual museum, coordination with Social Media sites dedicated to Model Railroading, Developing virtual sources of information available to the Public on the LSR or second LSR public site.

WEB/VIRTUAL/SOCIAL MEDIA INVOLVMENT and NEW MODELERS: Most of the NMRAs educational efforts are addressed to the already skilled model railroader not to the entry level persons. Educational efforts need to be addressed to all levels of the hobby including the most basic entry levels. This extends to the NMRA national level as well where the EduTrain concept starts with building a layout rather than more basic issues.

MEMORABLE LSR EDUCATION: The LSR President expressed a desire to have (Unique, innovative, new, etc.) Educational activities that are "memorable to the LSR." This might include a public web presence with information" in Time Line fashion perhaps interactive Wikipedia style pages. For example "Time lines" on various subjects like AAR rules on Freight cars, Manufacturers product releases sortable by era used, etc. Other possibilities of non-linier education might include a virtual museum collection of historical photos and information that could be viewed without traveling to the NMRA museum in California. These items differ from clinics that must be viewed in linier "start to finish" format.

Events Chair, Bill Dryden reported:
We are gaining ground as more folks are sending in notices for up-coming events, though I am still getting some notices few days or so after I have submitted the column. There have been several folks who have called, following up with e-mails with more details.
Anyone having events to be published, please send me the details:
bdr149@airmail.net

A reminder to all:
Please consider our deadlines for submittals and publications to allow adequate lead time to correctly announce your event – Column submission deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October; publication of the Marker Lamp is the middle of the following month.

Historian Bob Barnett reported:
I have been relatively inactive over the past year but plan on resuming the series of earlier articles for the Marker Lamp detailing our heritage as a Region and early Division formation and activities.
Planned or suggested topics:
LSR Conventions
The 1951 regional organization meeting in Dalles-Previously published
The 1951 First Annual LSR Convention in Fort Worth – previously Published.
The 1953 LSR Convention in Houston – Previously published
Early LSR Conventions in Central Texas- Pending
The 1957 National Convention held in Houston-Pending

Hobby Shop Memories
G&G Hobby Shop in Houston-Previously Published
Hall's Hobby Shop in Dallas
Tolson's Hobbies in Fort Worth
Dick's Hobby Shop in San Antonio
King's Hobbies in Austin
Cook's Collector's Corner in Shreveport
Bellaire Roundhouse in Houston (OK really in Bellaire)
The Hobby Hub in Arlington (May need help with the proper name).
A. D. Welborn's in Fort Worth
Undoubtedly there are many others. I am actively soliciting input from LAR Members in the form of information/facts or a short article regarding your favorite local hobby shop.

Ideas from members on other related historical topics.
Membership Chair Ken Kaiser reported:
This is the first twelve month period in several years that our membership has not shown a loss.

On December 31 2020 our membership was 888 and it remained the same on December 31 2021.
In 2021 we signed up 84 new members. That means we actually lost 84 members. That is almost a 10% loss. I'm sure we lost members due age and the COVID 19 pandemic. On the bright side it forced many Divisions to zoom their monthly meetings which provided a reason for members to renew their membership. Division four is attempting to set up meetings in the outlying areas were members can not only get together to view the Zoom meeting but discuss model railroading issues. This is an idea that other Divisions might consider adopting.

Several Divisions have been aggressive in recruiting new members. Division one signed up 31 new members in 2021. That is 37% of the combined new members signed up by all the LSR Divisions.

If we are going to stop the loss of members it is imperative that we know why they chose not to renew their membership. You cannot fix a problem if you do not know what caused the problem! To do this we need to contact all the individuals on the30 day delinquency list. I recently received a nice letter from an individual on the 60 day list. He said he had lost his job and liked reading the magazine but the current cost of membership was prohibitive. Hopefully with the NMRA Magazine going digital, it will allow for the reduction in the cost of membership, which appears to be one of the reasons for members not renewing.

Of the twenty letters sent to individuals on the 60 day delinquency list in October and November eleven have so far renewed their memberships.

Nomination Chair Pete Leach reported:
I have reached out to the current office holders that are up for election in 2022.

We have several offices up for election. We currently have one candidate for each office up for election. They are as follows:
Vice President – Ray Byer (incumbent)
Secretary – Jeff Palmer (incumbent)
Division 2 – Rod Fredericks
Division 4 – Bob Thiele (incumbent)
Division 6 – Don Winn (incumbent)
Division 8 – Phil Stewart (incumbent)
Director at Large (1) – Darrel Cowles (incumbent)
Director at Large (2) – Michael Harang
Director at Large (3) – Pete Leach (incumbent)
I want to thank Rod and Michael for stepping up to the plate to fill the vacancies.

I would like to work with the BOD to find more folks willing to serve the region and the hobby by running for offices in the future.

Non-Rail Chair Virginia Freitag No Report

Parliamentarian Ray Byer No Report

As of lately, the only question propose to the Parliamentarian is on Proxies. Who can or cannot be a Proxies. The By-Laws are straight forward on this matter, and this is what it states.

ARTICLE III - Duties of Officers
Under Directors
Section 10
10. In the event that an elected Officer, the Board Advisor, a Director, or Director-at-Large will be unable to attend a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, that person may appoint any other elected Officer, Board Advisor, or Director, other than the President, to act as proxy for the purpose of the Meeting.

As it states only another Elected Director or Officer can be a Proxies. No Member of the LSR or a Chairperson can be given this right, this right is for elected members only to the board. I hope this helps clearing up this matter.

Photography Chair Michael Harang reported:
After attending the 2021 Tulsa Union Convention, I have several key take-aways in regard to performing Photography Chairman duties. To that end, I have secured professional-grade studio lighting to ensure correct color balance on Contest Room photos. I plan on attending the LSR 2022 Convention in Temple, Tx and offer my photography services to convention chairman Bob Thiele.

Publications Chair Riley Triggs
Four issues of the Marker Lamp were published in Volume 67 in 2021. Non-reporting by directors, chairs and officers remains the biggest area that needs improvement. In the latest issue, 6 out of 11 directors (Mike Mackey, Brooks Willig, Don Kimmell, Phil Stewart, Darryl Cowels, Marc LaChey) did not submit a report.

Division 6 Director Don Winn will be presenting a clinic on getting the AP certificate for writing at the next regional convention in May

2022 in Temple, TX. I hope that encourages several people to submit articles for publication.

Areas to address

I would like to bring focus on the chairs and directors in the region who have not been submitting reports. Each position should have something to say about their activities, the hobby, or the way they are engaging with the model railroading community as an elected or appointed member in support of the LSR's mission.

Youth Chair Jim Lemmond reported:
The following youth have been nominated by their LSR Divisions to receive the LSR 2022 Youth Award: Division 6 – Luke Williams (15 years old) and Division 8 – Jonathan Andersen (15 years old).

Division 1: Foster Campbell (11 years old)
I love going out and exploring the railroads, seeing unique engines, and meeting new people that also share this hobby. For me, the east Texas rail lines and the flat plains are great for
railfanning and photography. I love to photograph both model trains and real trains. I like to see the scenery of America through the railroads.

Division 6: Luke Williams (15 years old)
The members of the San Antonio Model Railroad Association (SAMRA) nominate Luke Williams for the NMRA Youth Award for 2022.

Luke is 15 years old and has been a member of SAMRA for 2 years. Luke's interest in trains goes back to age 2 when he received his wooden Thomas the Tank Engine set. Since that time, Luke's interest in both railfanning and modeling have continued to grow.

Luke built an N-scale home layout and then switched to HO scale. He is presently working a 4x8 HO scale layout in his bedroom, representing a small Texas town in the early 1950s. His favorite roads to model are Santa Fe in the 1950s, and Union Pacific in the modern era.

From the hobby, Luke has learned how to solder, and now does his own decoder installations. He took the initiative to add a decoder to an HO Thomas engine so that he could run it at the SAMRA club for younger children who visit. He has also detailed passenger cars with lighting and passengers, as seen in the photo with his RDC.

Luke also runs his own YouTube channel featuring his DCC installations, railfanning, and videos of the trains that he runs on his own layout and at SAMRA.

Recently, the SAMRA club-built modules for a temporary train display at the DoSeum, San Antonio's children's museum. Luke is the featured star of a video that plays at the display.

Luke has expressed an interest in working in the rail industry, perhaps as an engineer.

Division 8: Jonathan Andersen (15 years old)
My name is Jonathan Andersen and I am currently a 15 year old member of All Points North Model Railroading Association in Conroe, Texas (APN). A few years ago I wanted to have a hobby outside of school that I knew other people would be interested in and that I would stay interested in. At the age of 10 my dad and I joined the model railroading club together. Here are a few things that I've learned about model railroading.

During my time at APN my favorite activity has been to work on scenery. This included gluing people in specific spots including construction sites and a haunted house scene. I have also built HO scale buildings including a lumber yard and real estate office. Another project I participated in was carving foam used to shape terrain. Since we joined, my dad and I have had the fun of helping maintain the scenery for two entire towns on the layout we are responsible for.
In the process of learning about model railroading hobby, I have also learned even more about real life train operations. Once a month, APN runs an operating session where people can come and get a manifest for a specific train and run it around the layout. For example, I have learned how to drop off and pick up train cars from cities efficiently and accurately and how to plan for interactions with other trains on the way. During an operating session we have to communicate with the dispatcher by radio in order to clear our route with other people running trains at the same time.

One other thing I have enjoyed is working together with other people on model railroading skills. This included helping member John Christiansen with placing people and buildings in a city. I also helped member Stan Walton carve out a mountainside contour. I have also put forward my ideas for helping to improve operations like suggesting that we shorten some of the manifests in our railroading operations from 2 hours down to about 45 minutes. In the past I have gone to a couple business meetings and I have seen firsthand how our club operates and continues to grow 40 years after it first started.

In summary, my interest in model railroading has expanded over the past few years. I have gained more skills involving modeling and scenery work by working with people who have been developing those techniques for many years. Finally, I have learned more about how a group of people can come together and accomplish a common goal. I look forward to how my interests will expand around model railroading through continued participation in this hobby.

OLD BUSINESS

Donna Orr opened old business welcoming everyone to the meeting. She followed the opening with the announcement that there is a 30-day time limit on committees. The committee can ask for an extension, but every 30 days a report needs to be ready for the board showing what has been accomplished. At the end of the committee's life, a BoD meeting will be called to vote on the issue.

In the absence of Gert Muller, the Treasurer, his report was reviewed briefly as the report shows that the LSR is in the black and the organization is still solvent.

Ray Byer presented the to date status of the Constitution/By-Laws Committee findings. One of the main findings was that there is no well-defined order of succession in the case that the President is unable to serve, and the Vice-President can't fulfill their duties. Another major issue with the By-Laws is the lack of job descriptions and list of duties for each of the elected offices. A number of problems were listed like not all divisions have the same resources, and a simple act of holding monthly meetings is difficult without support. This issue was emphasized with the lack of job descriptions for the Chair positions. Ambiguity is a virtue in some cases, but more direction is needed for all officers and chairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Jim Lemmond opened by presenting his youth award. Motion 2 was presented to the board with approval. Division 1 pointed out that there was some confusion with their candidate. The candidate sent in his information directly to the NMRA. Foster's name was added to the current Motion, 2nd by Jeff Palmer and voted on. The Motion was approved. Youth awards:

Foster Campbell – Division 1
Luke Williams – Division 6
Jonathan Andersen – Division 8

Donna Orr moved to the next business item, Regional Conventions/Divisional Responsibilities. Marc LaChey and Chuck Lind were commended for their excellent efforts in pulling off the 2021 joint convention with MCoR in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Being the first of its kind, a number of issues were pointed out. Marc's report was very through.
Brooks Willig announced that in 2024 there will be a convention in San Angelo.

The above discussion rolled over into the discussion about Doing Another Combined Convention. The general consensuses of the BoD was, that they are in favor of doing another joint convention, but clearer roles and responsibilities need to be defined. One decision made about the future, participants will at the regional level, not the divisional.
Sites like Jackson, Shreveport, Baton Rouge, San Antonio, and New Orleans were mentioned. The need for a Convention committee was also pointed out. Don Winn made a motion to form a Convention Committee consisting of Joe Leising, Don Winn, Brooks Willig, Don Kimmell and Rod Fredericks. The motion was seconded by Ray Byer and the BoD passed the motion.

Donna Orr opened the discussion on Membership: How, What and Why. One of the problems being experienced by the LSR is new membership retention of members. The process Donna wanted to institute is that every name on the 30-day list is contacted within a week are receiving the report. Ken Kaiser will handle the 60-day lists. This was a lengthy conversation, where Riley Triggs talked about the NEW NMRA renewal rates and the electronic version of the magazine. Mike Mackey talked about how he handled the 30/60-day notifications in Division 1. Donna introduced Ken Kaiser, the Membership Chair, for his input.

Donna Orr moved on to the next topic Suspension of the At-Large Positions. It was pointed out that the position was developed to help the President with special projects, and the annual convention was one of those tasks. Again, the lack of a job description contributes to the confusion of this position. One of the issues addressed was, "Should a Chair be able to vote on issues related to his/her area?" After considerable discussion, it was decided to keep the voting at its current status. It was pointed out that the number of At-Large positions is a constitutional issue. This discussion was tabled in the interest of time to the next BoD meeting.

Riley Triggs handled this discussion on Reporting. He pointed out the lack for reports from the LSR Officers for the Marker Lamp. One of the important reporting obligations of the LSR is to publish the LSR efforts involving education. Riley pointed out that at the NMRA level several Chairs were removed for their lack of reporting. This is a problem, as he is chartered to report quarterly on region activities. Simply stated, "No report, no activity." Conclusion, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REPORT ON TIME!!!

John Lowrance handled the discussion on Education – Activities/Ideas. John opened with his view on the education and our current efforts clinics, conventions, meetings, shows, and tours. He emphasized the need to reach out to other public opportunities like schools, libraries, and local opportunities. John is looking for opportunities and has solicited our input to help him focus the LSR education efforts. He's also looking for web opportunities. John made a point to note that education is a building process; you gain some fundamental knowledge and then build your skills on those foundations. He also noted that each person will have a different path to obtain their individual goal. John is looking for your help. Share your ideas with him. Share your knowledge with him. How do you like to learn? Are hands-on better than lecture? When is lecture effective? Is demonstration better than hands-on? Suggestions needed!! This topic was tabled do to time.

Marc LaChey presented a hardcopy final report on the Tulsa Convention. The convention was successful, and all contributing regions and divisions shared in the profit of the convention equally. His report details what was done well and areas that need development. This report will serve as a guide for future joint regional conventions.

Bob Thiele presented an update for the 2022 LSR Convention. The site for the convention on May 5-7, 2022, is the Mayborn Convention Center, Temple, Texas – "Where Modeling meets Prototype". Clinics are currently being scheduled, and non-rail activities are being worked on. Overall, the convention is moving forwarded. One of the conventions focuses will be on the AP program. Planning many hands-on clinics.

Mike Mackey presented the current status of the 2023 National Convention. Mike indicates that the convention effort is ramping up. The convention contract is still being negotiated. Mike is looking for volunteers. Web is https://www.2023texasexpress.com/
Jeff Palmer presented an abbreviated presentation on phishing (email requests for money). The LSR has been under attack for several years. Phishing is a cyber attack that uses disguised email as its entry point. The goal is to trick the email recipient into believing that the message is something they know and trust — an officer like the LSR President or Treasurer.

What really distinguishes phishing is the form the message takes: the attackers masquerade as a trusted or plausibly real person or company. It's the oldest type of cyberattack, dating back to the 1990s, and it's still one of the most widespread and pernicious, with phishing messages and techniques becoming increasingly sophisticated.
The easiest way to defeat a phishing attack is to look at the email address of the sender (From). The display name will be a name you recognize, but the actual internet URL will be different; i.e. Jeff Palmer<res06wqv@gte.net> (Actual) –
Jeff Palmer<reso6wqv@gte.net> (Phishing) –
Jeff Palmer<res06wqv@msn.com> (Phishing).

If you only look at the display name "Jeff Palmer", you will be a victim of the attack. The attack always end in a request for money whether it's cash, gift cards, or bitcoin. Please be aware that any request for financial aid from the LSR will never be done by email. Do not be a victim. LOOK at the actual return address on every email you open. Directors PLEASE HAVE A DISCUSSION WITH YOUR MEMBERS THAT THE LSR NOR ANY DIVISION OFFICIAL WILL NOT REQUEST MONEY VIA EMAIL!!!!!!

After the convention updates, Donna motioned for the conclusion of the BOD meeting. 2nd by Don Kimmell. No discussion. Motion passed and the meeting concluded at 4:00 PM. ML

Director Reports

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Mike Mackey, MMR
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cowcatcherdivision.com

Division 1 continues to prosper throughout these trying times. In spite of declining membership across the entire organization, Division 1 has remained steady and has seen only a slight decrease of less than 1% over the last 5 years. The Division leadership team has also recently been strengthened by the addition of two new Webmasters and a new Program Manager.

Attendance for meetings in person and via Zoom remains at about 30% of the division membership. Our recent February meeting attendance set a new high water mark with 61 in attendance. The annual Christmas Party was attended by just over 50 individuals and, after a pot luck dinner, we recognized three individuals for outstanding contributions to the division.

Darrel Cowles received the Jim Norwood Memorial Award for Outstanding Member of the Year, Jay Waters received the John Garfield Volunteer of the Year Award and David Crumpton received the Leo Palitti Memorial Award for Outstanding Craftsman of the Year. David Kranda was awarded the Division 1 Director's Award as the Outstanding Leadership Team Member for our division. We also recognized Forest Hill City Manager Venus Wehle for her ongoing support of the division.

2022 promises to be another year of growth as we already have a full slate of clinics scheduled for the rest of '22 and the first quarter of '23. Be sure to check out our monthly meetings on the division YouTube channel via our website at www.cowcatcherdivision.org.

Bayou Division 2

by Ken Mason
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504-722-6610

The CCMRC in Metairie is finally starting to make headway in their building repairs. The roof repairs have begun, and the interior has had treatment for the mold that had developed because of water ingress. Hopefully, we can get the building taken care of soon and then turn our attention to any damage that occurred to the actual layout. We believe the layout itself did not sustain any major damage, just superficial scenery damage.

The Mid-South Club in Baton Rouge has had to suspend operating sessions as of March. Full details are not known as of this report what their situation is, but I hope they will have good news soon. We all wish them the best.

Finally, I would like to end this report by thanking everyone in the Lone Star Region and my division for supporting me the past four years as division director. I have chosen not to run again for the position. Instead, I hope to be able to concentrate more on my personal modeling and to help my local club, the Crescent City Model Railroad Club get back in track since being damaged during Hurricane Ida last August 29.

I have met many great friends in and out of my division and the Lone Star Region. It is most definitely true what the NMRA teaches in that it is not just about trains, but it is the people you get to meet and associate with that is the best part of being an NMRA member. I genuinely believe that you get out of it what you put into by helping others to improve their modeling skills.

The Bayou Division will again be led into the future by past Division 2 Director Rod Fredericks. Rod held the position for a number of years before I came along and has graciously volunteered to take the position again.

I will not be going away though. I will still be active in the division and region as much as possible. So, thank you once again to everyone for letting me be your division director. It was a great ride and I hope to see everyone at regional and divisional events soon.

North East Texas Division 3

by Charles Goodrich
goodrich.charles@att.net

I was excited following our February meeting. Since we have been having in person meetings things seemed to not be going as well as before Covid. Attendance was down and participation was OK but, in my opinion, marginal.

The February meeting was different. We were up in attendance, we had two new members attending and what is more important people seemed to be really enjoying each other. Before the meeting and at the brake everyone was talking and having fun. Also, I heard a comment from two very experienced model railroaders (one MMR and the other should be) that they learned a couple of things at the meetings. That is what we are there for.

We are gathering together for two things. Learning new things about building a model railroad and more important meeting strengthening old friendships and making new friends. I have lived in the Dallas area for nearly 9 years now and cannot overstate the importance to me of the friendships I have made at the Division 3 meetings, plus I have learned a few things along the way.

We are looking forward to going down I 35 to Temple, TX in May for our annual LSR convention (May 5th through 7th). There is always something to do at a LSR convention plus we can meet with old friends and make some new ones from other divisions. The clinics are great too. I look forward to Temple because it is a relatively small town which making getting around easy and it has a lot of prototype railroad activity. In all, a lot of things to do.

CenTex Division 4

by Bob Thiele
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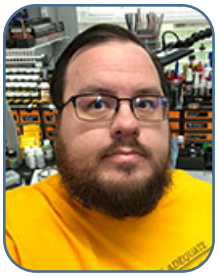
CenTexNMRA.org

It seems that just as the sunshine of hope presents itself a cloud block the view. In January the Division conducted its meeting via Zoom as a preventive measure against an upsurge in reported virus cases. Life has returned to what we call normal and the next Division meeting will be held on March the 12th at the Austin NW Rec center. It has now become the normal that even when we meet in person the Division will broadcast with Zoom so that all members can participate if they so wish.

The Division personnel has been working hard preparing for the 2022 LSR convention in Temple, Texas. The website is up and running and is being updated on a regular basis. Four newsletters have been published highlighting the events that will take place at the convention. One of the goals of this convention is to think out side the box and bring new ideas to the membership. It has been two years with limited contact and I think that the regional membership is ready to get together and enjoy the communication. This convention is located in Temple so that all members of the region can meet and renew friendship, make new ones and learn new techniques in modeling.

In our search for layout tours and operating session we found some surprising facts. There are many model railroaders in the divisions that we would call lone wolfs and they are doing some amazing work. One of Division 4 goals is to identify these individuals and to show off their work. We want to let them know that there is a local community of modelers who can help them and also learn from them. If we make a concerted effort to find these individuals, the numbers would be surprising. We must let them know what we can offer which should result in stronger and more productive hobby.

The Austin Model Railway Society, an all NMRA modular group is preparing for the 2022 convention. The modular group will be conducting op's sessions inside the convention center and is hard at work replicating downtown Austin in the late fifties. With plenty of research they have striven to duplicate the scenes of Austin's 3rd street area where most railroad activity took place. Kit bashing and in some cases scratch building to represent close facsimiles of the actual structures is in progress. They have developed an interesting operating scheme to simulate the actual rail movements by the Missouri Pacific, Southern Pacific and Katy Railroad.



Division 5

by Brooks Willig
Headroadie2004@gmail.com

2022 Is off to a great start for Division 5. As a director, I have been hosting monthly virtual meetings on Zoom. The meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. Meeting attendance has doubled with each meeting. In January we had Robert Thomas from LSR Division 6 talk about his layout of the Crawford and Cherokee Modeling the Frisco in Southeast Kansas during the 1920s. In February we had Mike Mackey, MMR and Division 1 Director join in to show us some fast and furious scenery techniques. I appreciate Mike sharing the meeting link out to other modelers that wanted to join. In March we will have Pete Leach, MMR present his bedroom-sized layout based on the prototype Maine 2-Foot gauge Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington. This should be an interesting clinic to see a narrow gauge layout.

The Lubbock Model Railroad Association, with Henry Crawford as newly elected President, has been holding monthly meetings starting in Dec last year. It has been great to see the developments and activities that have been happening with the club. They are making a great effort to promote the hobby and bring the enjoyment of model trains to all ages. Bj d'Orsay has been publishing a monthly newsletter for the club, and the club has a new website. https://lmra806.wordpress.com/ Scroll down the bottom and find the link to subscribe to the Newsletter to stay up to date on all the club happenings.

I am pleased to report the division is growing. We have picked up four new members this last month. To help Division 5 grow I am planning to establish a web presence for the division. I am looking into building a website to serve as a landing page for the division, to sign up for the monthly division newsletter, and to encourage modelers to join the NMRA. The division should also have a Facebook group where division members can take part in conversations about projects they are working on, or get help from other members of the division. I would also like to post recordings of future meetings on a YouTube or Facebook channel for those members that could not make it to the meetings.

Our virtual meetings are open to anyone who wants to join. You don't have to be a member of the NMRA, but we encourage membership and all its benefits.

To sign up for the Division 5 monthly newsletter. Scan the QR Code or go to http://eepurl.com/hRLLm9.

Division 6

by Don Winn
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Howdy. I am very pleased to announce that by a unanimous vote of the LSR Board of Directors, our 2022 Youth Award winner for Division 6 is Luke Williams!!!! [See the youth award article in this issue to learn more about Luke and the other winners - Ed.]

It's not too early to send in your suggestions on a deserving youth that you know (maybe even your own grandchild – that's fine) to be our 2023 award winner. Please contact me with your thoughts.

Let's meet in Temple in May

Our annual regional convention is coming up the first week in May, and I encourage you all to attend. The focus of many of the clinics will be on building your modeling skills, with specific guidance to help you earn your AP certificates. I will be presenting two new clinics discussing how to earn your Cars and Author awards.
I hope to see you there.

Déjà vu all over again (as Yogi Berra would say): Last quarter I mentioned that I was finishing up a second helix on my layout. So now here I am again, finishing up my 3rd and final (sounds like I have too many already) helix for this layout. This one is at the far end of the layout, taking trains down to hidden staging. I'm getting a lot closer to being complete on bench work and closing in on getting the full mainline completed.

I discovered 2 new products of interest recently. One is the new PECO turnout motor. Some advantages over Tortoise is it is less than 2" tall, so it can fit in areas of limited clearance. It is also designed for easy installation after your layout is 'complete', with provisions and templates for drilling holes from the topside of the layout. I bought some and should be able to get them installed before my next report.

I'm working on a scene of the famous Rochelle, IL quad diamonds and railroad park (as seen to the right of the helix in the photo above). I've looked at all of the available (and even no longer available) 30 degree crossings from Atlas, Shinohara and PECO, but they all suffer from too much unrealistic black plastic.

Resigned to buying a new Fast Tracks fixture and build my own, I discovered the new Fast Tracks product called Diamond Line. The kits are made from nickel silver castings and require no special fixtures. My just arrived from Canada and I'm looking forward to trying them out.

As always, if there is anything I can do to help you in your modeling, please don't hesitate to contact me.
SAFETY FIRST - Stay safe out there.

Division 7

by Don Kimmell
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Greetings form North LA. It's Mardi Gras time here right now, so things have been a bit "quiet" on the train front.

I am sure everyone knows that the KCS (Kansas City Southern) is being "merged" with the CP. While a number of us are not too happy with it, it is almost a done deal. The STB is now reviewing the "paperwork", so…We have no idea what is going to happen with the Belle Business Train nor the Holiday Express. We have been told the CP has a strong interest in their heritage and preservation, so we are hoping for some good results.

Speaking of the KCS, I was invited to attend a KCS/ Shreveport Renewal Dedication a couple weeks' age. The KCS donated a good bit of money to build a Friendship House in the neighborhood just north of the yards here in Shreveport. Had a very nice informative visit with Mr. Pat Ottensmeyer-President and CEO of the KCS.

On the local front, the "Red River Valley Railroad Historical Society" has changed the name of their local museum to the "Shreveport Railroad Museum", to better reflect what they are actually doing here. While it is not a very large place, they have some great stuff.

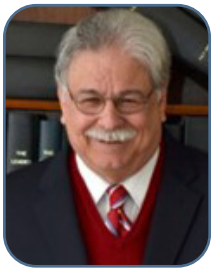
There is also a small HO layout to entertain the "kids". They have a number of Russell Higginbotham's scale models. These include the Shreveport Union Station, The KCS Café', the Commercial National Bank Building and the old Jefferson Hotel. The only building still remaining here is the old KCS Café', which has closed again. It is in a great train watchers spot just on the south side of downtown Shreveport, right where the KCS/UP meet and split. We had lunch there a number of times-the catfish platter was great! - and had 3 to 4 trains pass by, shaking the building. Alas, the restaurant has since closed.

Speaking of "real" trains, David Colvin is spearheading an effort to have Virtual Railfans install a couple of cameras here in Shreveport. Apparently, Shreveport is a very active site, with the KCS and UP meeting and crossing here. There are a large number of trains here on a daily basis. Should be interesting!

Don't forget the upcoming Convention in Temple. It is really a great train town. I have attended the local train show for a number of years and always had a great time. Hope to see you there May 5th thru 7th. The website is now open, https://lsr2022.org/

Visitors are "greeted" by Kansas City Southern Conductor J.W. Sandifer as they enter the museum. The late Mr. Sandifer's uniform was donated to the museum by our own Steve Sandifer. He is standing next to a KCS caboose stove.

On the right of the above picture is a lamp made from the old Texas & Pacific Passenger Station in Shreveport, it goes along with Texas & Pacific neon sign that once hung outside the station.



Texas Gulf Division 8

by Phil Stewart
pstewart1225@yahoo.com

Division 8 has been busy with clinics. To start the New Year we have a new meeting place and new clinician. Kelly Russell, the Regions newest Master Model Railroader will be conducting a clinic on the Achievement Program. We are inviting anyone in the Division to bring a model that they are working on and Kelly will offer tips on how to make the model worthy of a merit award in route to an Achievement award. Kelly will also review the requirements and paperwork for each Achievement Award. We have also invited other MMR's to participate in our clinic and offer tips on model construction.

We ended 2021 with an outstanding clinic by Ray Byer on layout planning. Ray went through step by step planning of an N scale layout. Group discussion was encouraged and we enjoyed an excellent give and take with several great ideas on how to make a model railroad.

Division 8 plans 5 more clinics by the end of year. The Division will also participate in the San Jacinto Train Model Railroad Club Train Show on Saturday, February 12 with a booth to encourage membership in the NMRA.

At-Large

by Marc LaChey
bu1977@att.net

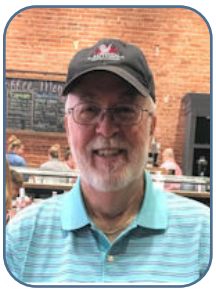
How many of you are aware of the site, Groups.IO? If not, I encourage you to check it out. Groups.IO has become a home for a number of special interest groups. I am a member of the Sn3 group, the Rio Grande Modeling & Historical Society, the D&RGW group and the NNG (National Narrow Gauge) group.

I am particularly partial to the NNG group, as it has become a home where likeminded narrow-gauge modelers can connect and enjoy a program, including a clinic, a vendor presentation, and a layout tour, presented monthly via Zoom. The NNG group at Groups.IO has filled a void left by the cancellation of the National Narrow-Gauge Conventions during the past two years of co-vid.

And while I can't wait to attend the 42nd National Narrow-Gauge Convention to be held September 1-4, the monthly NNG group meeting will continue to serve as a way for me to connect with other model railroaders having interest in modeling narrow gauge roads.

I also look forward to spending time this summer volunteering as a member of the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. Serving as a Docent on the daily trains is fun, rewarding and just a great way to spend a day! My time as a Docent has given me the incentive to add to my knowledge and understanding of the history, culture, botany, and geology that are a part of the C&TSRR. And I am always up to the challenge to go back to my room and research the answer to a rider's question that asked about something to which I did not already know the answer. For example, did you know that a Baldwin K-36 steam locomotive running at an average speed of 10 miles per hour produces 960 horsepower?

So, get out of the house, attend your local division meeting, a regional or national convention, visit your favorite railroad and spend some time with your friends.



At-Large

by Darryl Cowels
darrellcowles1@gmail.com

It looks like we are finally going to get out from under Covid's thumb that has impacted so much of our lives and impacted our hobby as well. Attendance at the recent Plano Winter Train Show was up noticeably over the last couple of shows and visitors seemed happy to be out at the show again. Many of the dealers were doing brisk business, and I saw a lot of modelers carrying bags of goodies. Wonderful!

After the recent Lone Star Region Board Meeting in Temple, Mike Mackey and I visited the Temple Railroad & Heritage Museum as well as the CentraMod Model Railroad Club. While we didn't go into the Museum due to time constraints, we did walk the collection of locomotives, caboose, and items outside the depot museum. If you haven't had a chance to visit, you need to plan a trip. We visited the CentrMod Model Railroad Club right next to the museum, and completely enjoyed seeing some of their historically correct buildings and structures that represent the prototypes in Temple.

The layouts are nicely done and feature a lot of detail and local buildings. They have a large HO scale layout, a O-gauge 3-rail layout, and a N gauge layout all housed in the old Santa Fe Moody Depot building. Open house is typically held the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, no charge for admission. If you wish to visit, you can contact them at centrmodrr@gmail.com for hours and dates.

I hope to get around and visit some other clubs in the LSR in the next few months. Hope to see you then!

At-Large

by Pete Leach, MMR
pleachtx55@gmail.com

This winter has flown by for me. I seem to spend a LOT of time on ZOOM calls, for work AND Model Railroading! But I am not complaining about the latter!

On the modeling front, I've completed a couple of projects for articles to be published by White River Productions sometime in the future. First, I kitbashed an HOn30 Vulcan Forney model into one resembling a Portland Company built product. I used the mechanism (motor, frame, gearing, and wheels) from Toma Model Works from Japan and scratch built a new superstructure (boiler, cab, and tank). An article is planned for the 2022 HOn3 Annual from WRP later this year.

A second project resulted in an article is for the Narrow Gauge and Short Line Gazette to be published soon. The project consisted of detailing a scene with a dinghy boat and fisherman. The boat was a poorly detailed casting that I upgraded to make it more realistic. The fisherman was part of set of 6 figures I painted over a few weekends. This was a new skill I achieved by doing a little research into techniques and some trial-and-error. I am very happy with the results and may have to go back and paint the many "factory painted" people on my layout.

I used the figure painting experience, along with many photos taken during the process to create a clinic on Painting Figures. I presented this to the San Jacinto Model Railroad Club during the January meeting.

As mentioned in the opening, I attend a number of ZOOM meetings with various model railroad groups. One of my favorites in a group of Maine Two Foot modelers and authors. I conducted a clinic on how I scratch built a specific Maine 2-Foot boxcar in February. The clinic was well received, and I was given a lot of helpful feedback to make historically accurate models. Most of the attendees know a LOT more about the subject matter than I, so the information was appreciated.

I am scheduled to present a clinic on my layout to the Division 5 in March via ZOOM. I look forward to sharing my layout story with this remote (for me) group of model railroaders.

I continue to write a monthly article on modeling for the San Jac club newsletter: DERAIL. This has been a fun experience and having a deadline helps keep me in the train room! I am looking forward to attending the LSR convention in Temple. I hope to see some old friends and meet some new friends!

A fisherman readies his boat as he waits for the tide to rise.

Achievement Program

by Duane Richardson, LSR AP Chair
duane@purgatoryanddevilriver.com

The following certificates were awarded since June of 2021. Included are three new MMRs, Kelly Russell, Dr. Michael Ross, and Tom Crostwait!

LSR-AP-Report			
FIRSTNAME	**NAME**	**Certificate**	**Date**
Tom	Greco	Prototype Modeler	7/21/2021
Kelly	Russell	Cars	7/21/2021
Kelly	Russell	MMR	7/21/2021
Pete	Leach, MMR	Volunteer	7/21/2021
Randall	Wilson	Author	7/21/2021
Robert	Ashcraft	Civil	7/21/2021
Christopher	Palermo	Official	7/21/2021
PJ	Mackey	Volunteer	7/21/2021
Tom	Greco	Cars	7/21/2021
David	Crumpton	Civil	9/20/2021
Michael	Harang	Volunteer	10/20/2021
Michael	Harang	Author	10/20/2021
Don	Winn	Cars	10/20/2021
Dean	Ferris	Electrical	10/20/2021
Dean	Ferris	Author	10/20/2021
Michael	Ross, MMR	Cars	11/20/2021
Michael	Ross, MMR	MMR	11/20/2021
James	Knabb	Volunteer	11/20/2021
Tom	Crosthwait, MMR	Cars	1/20/2022
Tom	Crosthwait, MMR	MMR	1/20/2022
Betty	Mitchell	Volunteer	2/20/2022
Lourdes	McCleary	Structures	3/20/2022
Scott	Parker	Structures	3/20/2022
Russell	Gifford	Golden Spike	4/20/2022

Membership

by Ken Kaiser, LSR Membership Chair
kdk1@flash.net

2021 Membership roundup

We ended 2021 with 888 members. Division 8 had the most members with 193 and Division 1 signed up the most new members with 31.

The largest membership drive in the year was a collaboration between Division 1 and the Union Pacific RR where we were able to set up a membership table and a table displaying Big Boy models in different scales at the BIG BOY visit to Ft Worth TX. 14 new members were signed up that day.

A good way for Divisions to attract new members is to set up a membership booth at local rail and museum events.

Sky Railway, Santa Fe, NM
by Riley Triggs

Treasurer Report

by Speed Muller, Treasurer
lsrtreasurer@huntatrophy.com
469-345-0022

The Tulsa joint convention with MCoR was such a big success, we received $261 more than expected! They also repaid the loan, so everything is in order here at the treasury. Apart from the president and website expenses, we have not much else to report. You can still recruit some modelers who were or are in the Defense Forces, since the Delattre Fund still has money.

See you at the Temple convention!

Third Quarter, 2021/2022:

Beginning Balances (2021/11/01)	
Tulsa Advance	$ 1,000.00
LSR Unrestricted Accounts	$41,415.93
Beginning Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,415.93**
Bob Clarke Award Fund	$ 528.86
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow	$ 139.00
Delattre Fund	$ 578.00
Outstanding checks	$ 107.50
Future Advances due	$-1,000.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$42,769.29**
Proceeds	
Tulsa Convention Advance Return	$ 1,000.00
Tulsa Convention Income	$ 761.49
Total Proceeds	**$ 1,761.49**
Disbursements	
President Expenses	$ 87.19
Website Expenses	$ 104.83
Total Disbursements	**$ 192.02**
Net Proceeds-Disbursements	$ 1,569.47
Updates to Restricted Funds:	
Delattre Fund	$ 0.00
Division 7 Rebate into Escrow	$ 0.00
Change in Liabilities	**$ 0.00**
Ending Balances (2022/01/31)	
LSR Unrestricted Accounts Total	$42,985.40
Total LSR Net Worth	**$42,985.40**
Bob Clarke Award	$ 528.86
Division 7 Rebate in Escrow	$ 139.00
Delattre Fund	$ 578.00
Outstanding checks	$ 0.00
Future Advances due	$ 0.00
Bank Saldo at bank	**$44,231.26**

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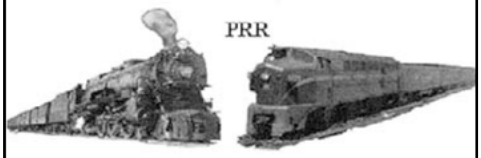

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